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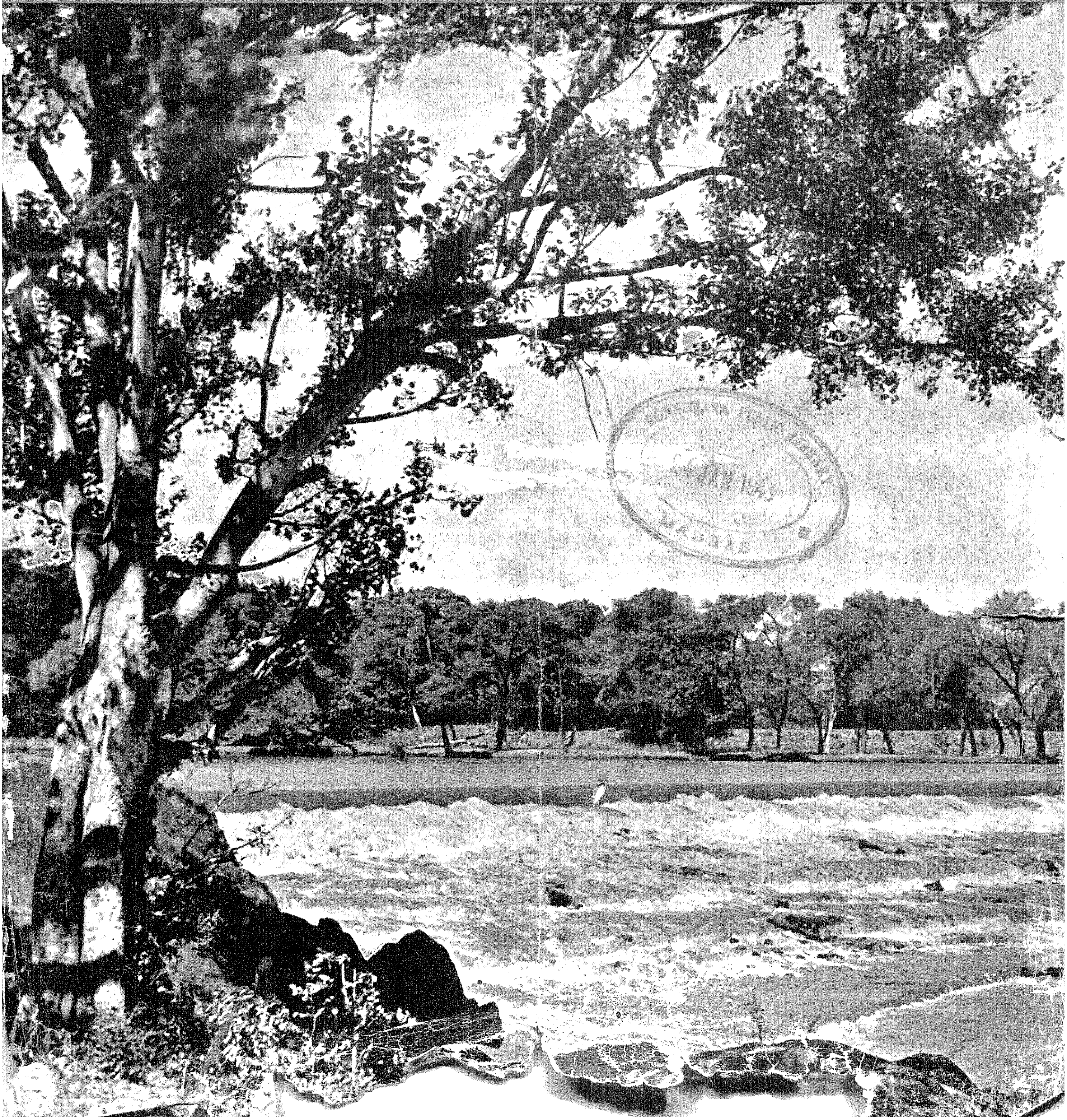

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Madras Information

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De-control Policy of Madras Government

THE Government of Madras have issued a statement containing a programme for de-control of foodgrains on December 23, elucidating further their statement of policy on the subject, dated 10th December, in pursuance of the decision arrived at by the Government of India in that regard. The statement announced that beginning with the withdrawal of rural rationing in the deficit districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Chittoor, the process of de-control of foodgrains and abolition of rationing would be completed throughout the Province before the end of 1948. The process has, in fact, commenced so far as the Ceded districts are concerned; it has subsequently been extended to the surplus districts in the North on January 4, and will be extended to the surplus districts in the South on February 1st. This is so far as food is concerned; but de-control had already been effected in respect of sugar, jaggery and the pulses and grams and also in respect of handloom cloth.

THE issue of retention of controls or de-control roused vigorous controversy prior to the announcement of the decision of the Central Government and the controversy continues unabated after it has been announced also. It is an issue which has drawn strong support as well as vigorous denunciation; and while it may be admitted that the results of de-control will have to be watched, the policy itself has its roots in the natural order of things, which had been interfered with when controls were imposed during the war period as an emergency measure. The circumstances in which they were imposed are admittedly different from the circumstances now and the emergency which justified and necessitated their imposition no longer exists in the same degree or to the same extent of imperativeness and urgency at present. So far as control over an essential commodity like food is concerned, it has in a large measure become an artificial imposition now, whatever may have been its necessity during the war period. Nevertheless there has been vociferous complaint that black-marketing in foodgrains was flourishing on a large scale mainly because of the inadequate rations and the continuance of controls over prices and distribution. It has also been clear that while some districts in the province are chronically deficit some others are surplus districts, and that rationing and controlled distribution in the latter had the effect more or less of a super-imposition from above, not liked by the generality of the people of those districts.

Removal of Restrictions Necessary

OUR province taken as a whole is a permanently deficit one in regard to food supplies; that is an indisputable proposition; and measures intended to augment food production and to make up for this deficit have not yielded results commensurate with the demands and needs. Thus our dependence on supplies from the Government of India continues and will continue until production is stepped up to such an extent as to make the province self-sufficient. All these point to only one conclusion, namely, that a chance should be given to the natural forces of demand and supply to operate without restraint and that whatever stocks are available should be enabled to come out uninhibited by extraneously imposed restrictions on distribution and consumption, while pressing for the despatch of sufficient supplies by the Government of India to overcome the overall shortage. The opponents of de-control differentiate food from other commodities and argue that the policy would, instead of facilitating return of normal conditions in the matter of supply and distribution, would create a further and worse state of scarcity than at present, that people who are out to profiteer and black-market in foodgrains

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would find a propitious atmosphere for their nefarious operations, and that the prices of foodgrains which are at present controlled, would soar up to an inordinate extent and that those who will suffer most in the process would be the poorer sections of the population. The arguments proceed from premises which can no doubt draw strength from some happenings in the past. Those who advance them, however, betray a feeling of suspicion and distrust of ordinary human nature. They do not take into account the consideration that though there may be a rise in prices immediately after de-control as a sequel to the removal of long-standing restraints, the forces of demand and supply will adjust themselves in a short time and the equilibrium in regard to prices restored and that if this process of restoration of the equilibrium is artificially impeded or delayed, the losers will be the would-be black-marketeers and profiteers themselves, because they cannot look forward to striking a profitable bargain at some future date. The fact is also not taken cognizance of by them that the Government are keeping an ever watchful and ever vigilant eye on the situation, particularly that in the deficit areas, and would not hesitate to interfere with impostion of rigid controls if the situation was found to be deteriorating through its exploitation by interested parties or otherwise.

Cautious Gradualness

IT is as a safeguard against such a contingency that de-control is proposed to be introduced with cautious gradualness taking into account the conditions in different districts and that the administrative machinery that had been working food controls so far is proposed to be kept to the extent necessary, while both the Central and the Provincial Governments have made it clear that they would not hesitate to resort to controls again if circumstances necessitate it. In other words the present de-control policy is an "experiment", as the Government's statement opines.

A HEAVY responsibility lies on the shoulders of the primary producers of foodgrains, big and small, in this connection. There had been all along a clamour by large sections of them for de-control and they have been assuring everybody that one of the reasons for the unsatisfactory procurement of foodgrains had been the fixation of an uneconomic price for paddy and other grains, and the hardships on account of inadequate rations which they were asked to subject themselves to in order that the rationed population in the towns might be fed. The Government have revised the maximum prices of different varieties of paddy recently, even though it was felt that it might involve a considerable burden on the consumer; and they have decided on gradual decontrol of the distribution of foodgrains by abolishing rationing of millets in the Ceded Districts, by withdrawing statutory as well as informal rationing in the surplus districts and combining it with intensive procurement, by substituting informal for statutory rationing in distri[illegible], such [illegible] and the Nilgiris for sometim[illegible] irement will continue in all the surplus areas, the Foodgrain Control Order will be in force in all the districts, and the provisions of the Essential Articles (Requisition) Order will be extended throughout the Province. The situation in the deficit districts will be constantly under watch and sufficient stocks will be made available to them as and when required to relieve shortage. De-control will thus be extended gradually and cautiously and ample opportunity will be afforded to the producers and others to realize their responsibilities towards the community under the revised policy and to co-operate in its successful operation by giving up the propensity to hoarding. Wherever found necessary in the deficit districts, Collectors will have the option to open relief shops to ensure regular and regulated supply of foodgrains. At the same time the Government of India are being pressed to expedite the despatch of the foodgrain allotments to the province so as to avoid the calamitous consequences that may follow if the food situation gets worse.

Careful Husbanding of Resources

APPREHENSIONS expressed by some sections of the public that on account of de-control there would be a repetition of the Bengal famine of 1943 are, therefore, not very much warranted and as the Hon. Dr. Rajan assured the Legislative Council on December 19, it was not as if the Government were rushing ahead unappreciative or unmindful of the possible consequences of de-control. There is, in the first place, the simultaneous programme of building up of stocks side by side with the extension of de-control and abolition of rationing. In the second place, there is the assurance of the Government of India that they would stand by the Provincial Government in working out the policy of de-control, which is initiated mainly at the former's instance. The Government of India on their part are taking measures to ensure that the policy will be a success by conserving indigenous stocks and making efforts to import foodgrains like wheat from Australia. They have however to see that the transport bottleneck does not stand in the way of immediate despatch of sufficient stocks to Madras to enable the Madras Government to discharge their pressing responsibility towards Malabar and the southern districts. In the face of these various factors the optimistic note struck by the Food Minister, Dr. Rajan, that Government would be able successfully to weather any potential food storm during the year even in the light of the new policy, will be echoed by all. With the active and full co-operation of the people, particularly the producers of foodgrains, the Government's efforts to meet the food situation are bound to prove successful but it calls for a careful husbanding of our internal resources and the maximum possible procurement of the food crop in the province and timely aid from the Centre.

THE de-control policy, so far as it concerns commodities other than food, has not caused so much flutter; and in spite of reports about rise in the prices in respect of sugar at some places, the absence of racketeering on

any large scale is noteworthy. So far as food is concerned, as an important counter-check to deterioration of supplies and consequent potential suffering of the people, which are to be avoided at any cost, the policy announced by the Madras Government errs more on the side of care than expedition. The programme is spread over a number of months, so that ample time is afforded for local stocks to adjust themselves to the demands and requirements of the new policy. Note may be taken of the intention of the Government of India, as contained in a New Delhi message, not to proceed with de-control of other commodities like iron, steel, cloth and cement until the results of de-control of food and sugar are known, and also of the statement of the Finance Minister of the Union Government that de-control of cloth was not warranted by the present conditions in the country.

BEFORE we close, reference may be made to the latest views of Gandhiji on this question and his exhortation to businessmen as to their duty in making de-control a success. He said in his prayer speech in New Delhi on December 28, as follows :—

"THE reason for control was the fear of dishonesty and profiteering . . . . The truest control comes from the honesty of growers, manufacturers and middlemen. It was up to the trading class and the millowners to dispel suspicion..........They were bound to be cent per cent honest. The various associations of businessmen and millowners and the general public could strengthen each other's hands for the removal of control. They would then be the more real arm of the Government than the civil service."

THE anticipated evils of de-control would be largely dissipated and might not emerge at all if there is complete co-operation between the public, the producers, the businessmen and the Government officials to see that nothing is done which will be detrimental to the public interest.

"Shape of Things"

Poets-Laureate Scheme

The Madras Government's decision to institute poets-laureateships in the four regional languages of the province is a unique and welcome move. In taking this decision they have not only given a lead to other provinces but set an example to them. The institution of poet-laureate is neither novel nor original so far as our country is concerned. It was a sort of inseparable appendage to the court of every Hindu king and emperor and continued to be so even during the Muslim and Mughal period and was a signal literary honour to which all poets and literary men aspired. The appointment implied Royal or State recognition and encouragement of learning and scholarship and was also a tribute to the Rulers themselves who thereby displayed a conspicuous cognizance of literary eminence and its high place in the scheme of things. In later times the institution lost its importance, which is however a sign not of progress but decadence; but significantly it survives in England, the one country in the world in which the institution of kingship has abided and survived the various stresses and storms that had swept the world during the last three decades and resulted in the uprooting of dynasties and upsetting of thrones.

The Madras Government's scheme seeks to honour the best and the most eminent among the national poets in the four regional languages of the province by conferring on them the distinction of State recognition as such in their respective languages. The selection will be made by a specially constituted committee for each language composed of men capable of judging and deciding on the merits of the competing candidates, and once a person is selected for the honour he will retain it for a period of five years. Selection, as has been explained by the Education Minister at a press conference will be confined to persons belonging to or domiciled in the province and their functions, while not being elaborately defined, will consist of composing poems on important national occasions and thereby expressing the national feelings in poetry and song. The poetical productions of the poets-laureate during the period of their office will remain their own property and Government would not impose any restrictions on their literary work during the period. Here, therefore, is an opportunity for our national poets to come into their own once again and pursue their literary activities to the enrichment of our national languages.

Besides the institution of poets-laureateships, the Madras Government also propose to award prizes to the best writers in the local languages on select subjects. This is another unique innovation, the result of which should be to encourage and stimulate local talent and scholarship by according to them State approbation. It is to be hoped that the scheme will evoke the best they are capable of from our scholars and poets and philosophers and so on and provide them with a stimulus to contribute to the solution of some of our pressing problems in their own way.

Education Schemes of the Centre

A number of sepcial studies including those on Scientific Terminologies for Indian Languages, a common braille for the blind in India, social and recreative activities, new techniques of training and the aseessment of attainments and the curriculum of basic schools have already been undertaken by the Government of India. It has been decided to set up a Central Institute of Education and a Central Bureau of Psychology in Delhi for conducting research in selective methods and standardizing tests of various types in the educational field.

Some of the problems envisaged are the improvement of the present examination system, methods of selection for the various stages of education, vocational guidance and so on. It has been decided to start a school of modern studies Asiatic and European— where the Indian students will have the facilities to study the languages, literature and history of some of the most important Asiatic and European nations. Also, a small unit for the education and welfare of the blind has been established. The establishment

of a Central Institute for Social Service and Public Administration is under consideration.

Several measures have been taken to promote scientific research in India and arrangements for international scientific contacts for Indian scientists are being made from time to time. Cultural co-operation with other countries is endeavoured to be promoted through the exchange of students, e.g. Chinese, Iranians and East Africans.

Library Service

The Government of Madras are shortly placing on the statute book a piece of legislation for the establishment of public libraries in the province and the organization of a comprehensive rural and urban library service. The law is expected to provide for the constitution of a Provincial Library Committee to advise Government on all matters relating to libraries. A Director of Public Libraries will be appointed to superintend the working of libraries throughout the province. There will be a Central Library in the province which will be managed by the Director. The Corporation of Madras, the District Municipalities and Panchayats may be the local library authorities for their respective areas. Every District Board may be the local library authority for those portions of the district which do not fall within the jurisdiction of a municipality or a panchayat. A Library Committee will be constituted to assist the local library authorities other than a panchayat. Such a Committee may also be constituted by a panchayat if it so desires or if Government for special reasons consider the Committee to be necessary.

The necessity for this legislation cannot be over emphasized. Already some of the big States like Baroda have elaborate library services and many of the provinces in India are marching in the same direction. The promotion of culture is one of the important duties of a democratic State and to this end, it is necessary that the intelligentsia is provided with as much facilities as possible. Abraham Lincoln's well-known definition of democracy is—"a Government of the people for the people and by the people." The definition implies that for efficient democratic Government the people should be equipped with as much knowledge as possible of men and things. Days of isolation are over and one has to keep pace with advancing knowledge in order that he may rise equal to his responsibilities as a useful citizen of his own State. An ignorant electorate is a source of weakness to democracy. The Government's new legislation is an important innovation. It is hoped that in the actual operation of this legislation, public enthusiasm and co-operation will be forthcoming in abundant measure.

Public Health

The improvement of the public health in this country is one of the major problems facing both Provincial and Central Governments. Sound public health is a basic condition for achievement in any sphere of the activity and hence, it is that great importance is attached to matters relating to the promotion of public health. The Central Government as well as Provincial Governments have a number of schemes to this end, and these are being implemented. The population of the country is distributed in villages and one of the contributory factors for public health is therefore sanitation and hygiene in villages. If villages are kept clean that will go a long way in warding off diseases especially epidemics. Recently this aspect of the matter was dealt with by the Hon'ble Rajkumari Amritkar, Minister of Health of the Dominion Government in a broadcast talk. She said:—

You must be aware how very backward our country is in the matter of health. All kinds of diseases and fevers are rampant in the country. The incidence of death in childhood is great as also for women during child birth. Our expectation of life is the lowest in the world. It is true that our poverty is very largely responsible for most of these ills. We do not get enough to eat; milk and ghee are rare commodities to-day, the pressure on land has increased tremendously; there is unemployment and very little money. But I do want to say this to you that in spite of all this a very great deal of our ill-health is due to our own fault and ignorance is its cause.

Up till recently we have been under foreign rule. This rule did not turn its attention to the villages. No education was imparted to villagers. Nothing was done for better housing, proper water-supply or light, no attempt was made to improve communications. The result has been that the wealth of the villages has all been drained to the cities. Practically all village produce goes there leaving the villager poor. This should not be. In the old days villages were self-sufficient in the matter of food, cloth and, indeed, of all their wants. Villages flourished. Even to-day our land is a land of villages. City dwellers are a mere handful. If, therefore, our villages are not made prosperous the country cannot stand. We are now free from the foreign yoke. Your Government is a people's government who are at all times willing to do everything for your benefit. You, however, must lend them a helping hand so that their efforts on your behalf may succeed.

If you remain the victims of disease you will never be able to make any progress. I therefore ask you to pay due attention to the following:—

(1) Eat bread made from hand-ground flour. If handground flour is not procurable, let it be flour ground by kharas (bullock mill). You should realize that machine ground flour has no vitamins in it.

(2) Cultivate the habit of eating vegetables and the more raw vegetables you can eat the better. Whenever you can find fruit, eat fruit also.

(3) Give the utmost attention to the care of your cattle. They are your greatest wealth. It is because they do not get proper care that our cows yield little milk and our cattle are of poor quality. Then how can we expect to get either milk or ghee and how can our agriculture thrive?

(4) Keep the village clean. It is because we do not conform to the laws of hygiene and sanitation that disease spreads in our midst. Dirt produces flies, mosquitoes and other germs which are the root cause of the spread of disease. To keep your houses and lanes clean and free of all refuse is your duty.

(5) Due attention must be paid to personal cleanliness also. Clean clothes, clean cooking and eating utensils, clean children, clean houses, clean lanes, healthy cattle, all these are the signs of a prosperous village.

(6) Unclean water is another cause of disease. Always drink water from a good well, never from a stagnant tank or a pond. Keep the place near your drinking-water well clean.

(7) Inculcate early in your children the habits of cleanliness. If there is a school send all your children to that school.

(8) Every house must hum with the spinning wheel. Isn't it a shame that we cannot produce our own cloth? That our women have, to a large extent, given up spinning has been a crime on their part. I beseech

all my village sisters to take to the spinning wheel once again and make their village prosperous. I do not plead only for the spinning wheel. I plead with you for the revival of all village handicrafts. If you can cater for all your requirements in your own village then what need have you of anything else ? You will then, indeed, be kings in your own homes. This is what Mahatmaji has been telling you for years. This is what he is saying to you to-day. You should listen to him.

To-day you are dependent on city folk. But if you will awake and carry out village reform, city people will have to look to you to meet their requirements.

(9) My message, therefore, to you today is to awaken you from your slumbers. Drive the wolf of poverty from your door. Do not spend foolishly, get rid of all the evil customs which have crept into our society, do not gamble, do not drink alcohol, do not get into debt, keep your characters above reproach, live with each other as brothers. Love conquers all things. Our health can only be good if we live cleanly and well.

JAI HIND !

Government's Housing Schemes

The first step taken by Government to promote the systematic development of co-operative housing in the Province was to instruct the Collectors to constitute housing committees in all municipalities and major panchayat areas where the shortage of housing was acute, for the selection of suitable house-sites. Blocks of lands measuring about 20 acres in extent in which a colony of 100 houses may be established were to be selected by these committees. Accordingly, housing committees were set up in 75 municipalities and in about 200 major panchayat areas and steps are being taken to organize housing societies in centres where there is adequate local response.

Now to the various types of societies.— So far as urban areas are concerned, three kinds of co-operative societies are under organization, viz., (1) Co-operative townships, (2) Co-operative house construction societies and (3) Co-operative building societies.

In places where very large blocks of land about 500 to 1,000 acres are available near cities and towns which are heavily congested and where the people are willing to settle outside the municipal limits and build up a co-operative colony of their own, co-operative townships are formed. These townships will not only acquire the site, prepare the lay-out, parcel out lands among the members and advance money with the help of Government loans for the purpose of house construction, but they will also provide amenities like roads, parks, play-grounds, electric lights, drainage and sewage, health services, medical relief, educational and recreative facilities, etc. Such a co-operative township has already registered at Katpadi in the North Arcot district and another has been organized at Padavu near Mangalore in the South Kanara district.

The second kind of housing society for urban areas is the Co-operative house construction society which is based on the co-partnership system. It acquires house-sites with its share capital and constructs different classes of houses with the help of loans from Government and rents them out to its members. If a member pays the rent for his house regularly for a period of 20 years, he becomes the owner of the house. This kind of Housing Societies is most suitable at the present time. The first society of this kind was registered at Madras in May 1947. Subsequently similar societies have been registered at Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura and Palamcottah. Proposals for the registration of such societies at Guntur and Calicut are pending.

The third kind of Co-operative Housing societies is the ordinary co-operative building society which is based on the individual ownership system. It provides long-term loans to its members for the construction of houses. It is the simplest type and is in fact only a long-term credit organization providing members with loans from Government up to 20 years. The construction of houses is left to the members who pledge their sites and buildings as security for their loans.

Till recently, co-operative housing schemes were confined to urban areas. But now the scarcity of housing accommodation is as acute in some villages as it is in towns. A beginning has therefore been made with rural housing schemes in weavers' co-operative societies and schemes have also been drawn up for housing Harijans.

In the prohibition districts, well-established weavers' societies with adequate reserves have been selected and it is proposed that they should acquire suitable house-sites in the outskirts of the village, construct houses at about Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 each and let them out to their weaver members on the hire-purchase system. One-half of the cost of the scheme is provided by the society out of its funds and the intitial deposits made by the applicants and the other half is obtained as a 20-year loan from the Government.

As regards Harijans, it is proposed to provide them houses on a subsidized basis, meeting the subsidy out of the Harijan Welfare Fund. A five-year scheme of rural housing for the Harijans has been drawn up by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Under the scheme 50 centres will be selected in the Province each year at the rate of two per district and a colony of at least 30 houses will be set up in each centre. The scheme will be worked through the existing co-operative credit societies into which the Harijans will be admitted or through the existing societies for the scheduled classes or by organizing separate societies exclusively for housing. Each house is estimated to cost about Rs. 2,500— one-half of which will be given as a free grant from the Harijan Welfare Fund and the other half as interest-free loan, repayable over a period of 20 years. Provision of public amenities such as roads, playgrounds, drinking water wells, etc., are to be made by the Government from the Harijan Welfare Fund.

So far four Co-operative House Construction Societies have been registered. Of these the House Construction Society at Madras alone has commenced actual work as it has been fortunate in getting an extensive site of 131 acres at Adyar by private negotiation. The House Construction Societies at Trichinopoly, Tanjore and Palamcottah have applied for the acquisition of sites under the Land Acquisition Act. The Madras Co-operative House Construction Society has on its rolls 661 members with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 22·31 lakhs. As many as 245 applicants who have deposited an earnest money of Rs. 7·07 lakhs are on the waiting list for admission. The society proposes to construct three classes of buildings commencing with upper class buildings at a cost of Rs. 15,000 each. A layout plan for the Adyar site has been prepared providing for 332 houses. The Society has also initiated land acquisition proceedings for acquiring the other sites in Adyar, Mylapore and Kilpauk areas. It has taken the loan of the service of an Executive Engineer from the Public Works Department to supervise the construction of buildings.

The Katpadi Co-operative Township was registered in April 1947. On 30th June 1947, it had nearly 770 members with a paid-up capital of Rs. 5·23 lakhs. The scheme envisages the formation of a new town on entirely co-operative lines between Vellore and Katpadi towns in the North Arcot district. The original plan contemplated the acquisition of about 1,400 acres and the formation of a colony of 5,000 houses. There were to be five classes of sites ranging from Rs. 400 to Rs. 6,000 each according to extent. The cost of acquisition was estimated at Rs. 9 lakhs and this money had to be found entirely from the share capital subscribed by the members. The total cost of the scheme including the construction of houses and the provision of amenities was estimated at Rs. 3 crores. Recently Government have decided that the township should acquire only about 800 acres, relieving about 600 acres of wet lands.

As regards the housing of weavers, the first attempt has been made at Yemmiganur in the Bellary district which has the biggest Weavers' Society in the Province. Taking advantage of its exceptionally strong financial position, the scheme has been introduced there first. The society has already acquired 53·98 acres of land, on the outskirts of the village and proposed to construct 100 houses in the first instance. The layout has been approved by the Director of Town-Planning and the Foundation for the first house was laid on 8th October 1947. The scheme also provides for the construction of common buildings like a community centre, a handloom factory, a dye house, etc. Each dwelling house will be constructed on a plot measuring 80 × 60 feet and will be surrounded by a kitchen garden. The cost of each house is estimated at Rs. 2,500. The society has obtained a loan of Rs. 1 lakh from the Government and proposes to meet the balance of the cost of the scheme from its own resources. About 20 similar housing schemes to be launched by Weavers' Co-operative Societies are in various stages of progress.

Another rural housing scheme at Periakottai in the Tanjore district is under investigation. It is proposed to be run by the Land Reclamation Society there. A suitable block of land is available near the village and members are willing to pay share capital equal to the value of the site and also pay in advance one-fifth of the cost of construction. Three different types of houses are proposed to be constructed. The cost of the whole scheme is about Rs. 2 lakhs of which a lakh and twenty thousands are to be provided by Government as long term loans.

The scheme of rural housing for Harijans through the formation of house site societies and housing societies for Harijans was considered by the Harijan Welfare Committee at its last meeting. They have decided to recommend a subsidy of Rs. 15 lakhs for the Harijan Housing Scheme from the Harijan Welfare Fund and a like amount may have to be advanced by Government as loans.

Government have undertaken to finance housing schemes, with loans to the tune of three crores per year for a period of five years. Recently they have reduced the rate of interest on loans to Co-operative Building Societies from 4½ per cent to 3½ per cent.

They have also appointep special staff for Land Acquisition work connected with the schemes and have also lent officers of the co-operative department to assist the societies.

Government have made special arrangements for the supply of iron and steel for Co-operative Housing Schemes. 7,000 tons of timber, 3,500 tons of teak and 3,500 tons of other varieties of hard wood have been reserved by Government for Co-operative Housing Schemes at concessional rates.

Government have also requested the Honorary Regional Cement Adviser to supply cement to Co-operative Housing Societies on the recommendation of the Registrar. The question of increasing the supply of coal as well as transport facilities to the Cement factory in the Province, with a view to enable them to increase their output and thus meet the additional demand for cement from Co-operative Housing Societies is also under consideration.

More Schemes of the Centre

Manufacture of Telephone Equipment in India, Development of Broadcasting, Revival of Information Films of India and the setting up of a Bureau of Standards for Medical Institutions formed the subjects of important schemes approved by the Standing Finance Committee which met in New Delhi on December 13 and 14, 1947.

As regards the scheme for the manufacture of automatic telephone equipment and stores in India negotiations are in progress with some leading industrialists in the country for the setting up of a factory to produce such telephone equipment as is at present being imported. The necessary machinery, patent rights and technical assistance will have to be procured from abroad. If the scheme materializes, India should be in a position to make automatic telephone equipment within three years.

From humble beginnings 20 years ago with two small transmitters, at Calcutta and Bombay, Broadcasting in India now aims at providing a programme for every person in the country in his own language and one which could be picked up with an inexpensive receiver. This is the essence of the Government of India's Basic Plan of Broadcasting.

To implement this plan, the Government have, in the first place, formulated an eight-year programme, the highlights of which are: provision of new medium wave transmitters at Nagpur, Bezwada, Ahmedabad, Cuttack, Dharwar, Gauhati (or Shillong) and Calicut; construction of studio buildings at Madras and Calcutta; installation of medium wave transmitters at various centres for urban and rural programmes; strengthening of the Research Department; and the establishment of a Staff Training School in New Delhi.

Filming life in each Province in its many fields of endeavour is one of the main purposes of the proposal to revive Information Films of India and Indian News Parade. Each Governor's Province will be 'covered' by a cameraman of the Government's news reel organization, which is expected to begin distribution of films early next year. In addition a cameraman will be stationed at Delhi and one extra photographer will work at the headquarters Office at Bombay. For the 'shooting' of short films six units are to be set up—four to produce documentaries for cinemas, one for special films for external distribution and one for rural area 'specials'. The five distribution centres will be Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Lucknow and Nagpur.

The Government of India feel that the interests of the country will be best served by the setting up of a Government organization for the production and distribution of news reels, and that the exhibition of these news reels should be made compulsory.

To serve as a reservoir of knowledge and research which would help to present a true picture of the various

aspects of life in India is one of the main functions of the Research and Reference Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting which is shortly to be organized. Its other main purpose will be to collect materials and prepare studies on foreign subjects.

It is planned to divide the Research work into seven sections India, Pakistan, Russia, America and Europe, Britain and Commonwealth Countries, Far East, Middle East. The importance of a good library for such work is obvious.

The Standing Finance Committee have sanctioned expenditure for the appointment of staff.

Development of Electricity

Every village in India is to have electric light and every home a radio, said the Hon'ble Sri N. V. Gadgil, Minister of Works, Mines and Power, while referring his Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1948, to a Select Committee of the Dominion Legislature. This widespread use of electricity is sought to be effected by the adoption of the "grid system" and the establishment of Provincial Electricity Boards features which are perhaps novel in the history of electricity legislation in India.

The Provincial Boards will perform a two-fold function. In the first place, they will be charged with the duty of promoting the all-round development of electricity within the limits of their jurisdiction and, in the second, to effect the rationalisation of the supply of power. The Board may establish new generating stations or control existing ones for the purpose of generating electricity required by it, and then proceed to interconnect the stations by means of main transmission lines. The Board may also buy electricity in bulk from the owners of "controlled" stations or sell it to them and to other licensees. In short, by ensuring that the generation of electric power is concentrated in the most efficient units distributed over the entire region and that the bulk supply is centralised under its own direction, the Provincial Boards will have the power to develop the "grid system" not only in new areas, but also in the areas of old licensees by controlling their operations.

Sri N. V. Gadgil gave some striking figures which show only too clearly the vast possibilities that lie before this country in the direction of electrical development. For while the possibilities in India from hydro-electric sources alone may exceed [illegible] million Kw; the total installed capacity at present is below 2 million Kw. Again, the annual per capita consumption in India is 9·2 Kw. hours as against 906 in England; 1,470 in the United States of America; 3,090 in Norway and 3,510 in Canada. Further, even out of this low output and consumption of electric power nearly 50 per cent is concentrated in the four cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur and Ahmedabad, which together contain less than 1½ per cent of the country's population.

Financial Implications

It is intended that the Boards will exercise a form of financial control over commercially-owned undertakings with a view to ensuring the invester a reasonable return and at the same time, securing to the consumer as much reduction in the cost of electricity as possible. A special Advisory Committee constituted by the Government of India has recommended certain "Principles" of electricity supply finance which define the form that this aspect of control must take. These "principles" or rules proposed for the calculation of the capital, the standard rates of profit, the rate of depreciation and the remuneration of managing agents, are intended to serve the interests of the consumer and the invester alike. The consumer's interests are to be safeguarded by reducing the interest and the dividend payable by the undertakings to a level, below which they cannot be further forced except at the cost of diverting the flow of development capital from the industry. And the interests of the invester will be safeguarded by insisting on a properly devised system of compulsory depreciation and regulating the commission and expenses of managing agents.

Step towards Nationalization

The Bill does not set out to nationalize the industry but only to control it at this stage. It enables the Provincial Boards to introduce many of the benefits of nationalization without it being necessary to make prodigal use of public borrowing power to acquire assets already being efficiently operated by private enterprise. New undertakings, will, however, be started mostly by the State and only when it is impossible for the State to come in, may private enterprise be allowed. As far as present undertakings are concerned the measure of control on them contemplated by the Bill constitutes, according to the Hon'ble Minister, a reasonable compromise between nationalization and private enterprise. Out of the 412 electricity undertakings in India, 300 belong to private companies, 249 of them being in the Dominion and 51 in the States. Calculated in terms of installed capacity, 73·19 per cent of it belongs to privately-owned companies and the rest to municipalities and Government. It has been estimated that if Government were to transfer all private undertakings in this country to public ownership, it will cost the national exchequer nearly Rs. 150 crores. Meanwhile there is a proposal to amend the Electricity Act of 1910 suitably with a view to basing the appraisal of electricity undertakings on their book or written down value instead of the market rate, which is often inflated. It is the contention of the Hon'ble Minister that this proposal and the comprehensive powers vested in the Provincial Boards over private undertakings constitute a step towards nationalization rather than an obstacle to it.

Rural Reconstruction

Everybody now knows that the Government have selected one firka in each district for the purposes of intensive rural reconstruction work. The intention is that when these areas are developed, they are expected to serve as models for other firkas. Elaborate programmes have been chalked out and expert personnel have been made responsible to carry out the work. There is a general tendency in this connexion to talk of rural reconstruction as an easy unilateral affair. One recent author has observed that people talk of rural reconstruction in the same way as they talk of patent medicines that is just something which on the mere application produces the desired effect. This is a wholly incorrect conception. Rural reconstruction is a very complex affair and whatever may be the elaborate nature of the programmes chalked out or the amount of money spent by the Government, the basic condition for success is the willingness of the people to identify themselves with the measures of the Government and take full benefit out of them. Speaking on Indian rural conditions and the ways and means of improving them, more than one writer, both Indian and English, have stressed the fact that there should be a psychological transformation of the masses as a prelude to any real improvement. The masses are generally steeped in fatalism and devoid of any real desire to improve their lot. In such an atmosphere any

(Continued on page 10)

At a glance—Press Notes, Releases, etc.

Price of Paddy

The Government have had under their consideration the question of fixing fair prices for foodgrains for the new Kharif year 1947–48. After taking into account the several representations received by them in the matter and the several factors involved and in order to ensure that producers get a better price for their produce, the Government have decided to increase the F.O.R. prices for export of rice in the case of surplus districts and wholesale prices of rice for internal distribution in the case of both surplus and deficit districts by Rs. 2 per imperial maund, which will work out approximately to an increase of Re. 1–6–0 per imperial maund of paddy.

2. Paddy will hereafter be classified only into two sorts, First and Second. The existing special sort will be merged in the first and known as "First sort" and the existing third sort with the second sort and known as "Second sort." The increase of Rs. 2 referred to above will be given over the existing prices for the old I and II sorts respectively.

3. Village-site procurement prices calculated inferentially from the revised ceiling and wholesale prices will also be fixed and notified along with the revised ceiling and wholesale prices. The revised village-site, F.O.R. and wholesale prices of paddy and rice for the surplus districts will be as shown in the annexure.

4. The Government have also decided to increase the price of millets by Re. 1 per imperial maund for all varieties of millets. The revised millets prices will also be notified.

5. Producers will also be given option to deliver their surplus grain either in the shape of paddy or rice, subject to the condition that those who want to deliver rice should deliver at least a minimum of one ton of rice.

6. Producers who had delivered paddy or rice between 1st November 1947 and 6th December 1947 (both days inclusive) will be given bonus for such deliveries at the same rate that was in force in October 1947, i.e., at Re. 1 per imperial maund of paddy. Half of this bonus will be paid in cash and the other half as manure. Both the cash bonus and manure bonus for deliveries during this period will be given only after 31st March 1947.

[December 6]

National Savings Certificates

The total value of the subscriptions by way of purchase of National Savings Certificates in the Province of Madras and Indian States, during the week ending November 1, 1947, is Rupees 1,14,60,115.

[December 8]

Cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act

The number of cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by Civil Courts in the Province for the quarter ending 30th September 1947 was 439. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 30th September 1947 (covering 115 months) the total number of cases disposed of was 207,746.

The amount involved in applications disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 13 (1), 19 and 10-A of the Act for the quarter ending 30th September 1947 was Rs. 3,15,658. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1947 stood at Rs. 9,80,39,998.

The amount scaled down by the courts on the applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 30th September 1947 was Rs. 1,40,947. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1947, the amount scaled down was Rs. 4,71,15,642.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 30th September was Rs. 1,74,712. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1947, the amount of reduction by scaling down debts was Rs. 5,09,24,356 and the percentage of reduction is 52.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 30th September 1947 was 320.

The figures given above exclude the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

[December 9]

More Production

The Government have decided to lease suitable lands in the reserved forests between Poombarai and Manavanur in the Kodaikanal taluk, Madura district, for cultivation of wheat and wattle. A total area of about 2,614 acres is now available for lease. The area to be leased out to any one individual for the cultivation of wheat and wattle will be limited to 50 acres to begin with, of which 30 acres should be cultivated with wheat and 20 acres with wattle. If a grantee proves his ability to grow both wattle and wheat successfully in the area leased to him within a period of 3 years of the lease, the question of granting further areas to him will be considered.

[December 11]

Harijan Welfare Committee

The Government have reconstituted the District Harijan Welfare Committee, South Kanara, with six non-official members.

[December 10]

Handloom cloth control

Madras is the only Province which has internal control over handloom cloth. There has been a clamour for the de-control of handloom cloth. This Province is getting more and more mill cloth and larger supplies are expected in future. This Province will soon be getting considerable quantities of imported yarn of higher counts. The proposed standardization scheme of the Government of India will result in a greatly increased production of yarn and cloth, with a resultant increase in the Madras quota. The Government consider that the time has arrived for thinking of progressive de-control. They have decided to make a start with handloom cloth, in regard to which conditions are not satisfactory, and have accordingly repealed the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, and the Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order, 1947, with effect from the date of publication of the Government Order in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. All restrictions relating to production, wages, prices, markings, etc., and also the system of licensing of sale of handloom cloth will thus be given up. The question of repealing the Madras Handloom Cloth (Exports) Control Order, 1947, which regulates the varieties and prices of handloom cloth exported to Ceylon, is also under correspondence with the Government of India.

It is, however, essential to safeguard sufficient supplies of handloom cloth to the Province. The Madras Cotton Cloth Apparel (Exports) Control Order, 1946, regulating exports to places outside the Province will, therefore, be retained in its entirety. The Government are aware of the heavy stagnation of varieties of handloom cloth, not utilizable in this Province, with dealers and exporters at the moment. A scheme is being introduced immediately for the liquidation of all the accumulated stocks of such varieties by permitting their export as a temporary measure. The trade is warned that such exports will be restricted to the minimum in future and only to non-utility varieties. Trade interests are advised in their own interests to prefer the production of such varieties as are used in this Province. [December 20]

Firka Development Scheme—Expenditure

The Government have selected, as the public know, 34 firkas and centres for carrying on intensive rural reconstruction under the Firka Development Scheme. To obviate the delay caused in obtaining the previous orders of the Government for the execution of minor but urgent schemes of improvement, which involve small expenditure, the Government have directed that an annual lump-sum grant of Rs. 10,000 be placed at the disposal of each Collector (except the Collector of Madras) in respect of each selected firka or centre and another annual lump-sum grant of Rs. 10,000 at the disposal of the Provincial Firka Development Officer, Madras, for the entire Province.

During the current year, which is half over, the grant will be restricted to Rs. 5,000 for each Collector and for the Provincial Firka Development Officer. The Government have directed that in sanctioning works, the Collectors and the Provincial Firka Development Officer should give preference to those for which voluntary contributions are forthcoming.

[December 13]

Term of Panchayats

The Government have directed that the term of office of the members of every panchayat, which, under the law in force, extends up to noon of the 3rd January 1948, shall extend, instead, up to noon on the 1st April 1948.

Taxation of Motor Vehicles

The Government have directed that with effect from 1st January 1948, motor vehicles, other than transport vehicles, registered and normally kept in the Cochin State for which quarterly tax has been paid up to that date, be exempted from taxation under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, on transfer to the Province of Madras.

As a similar concession will be granted by the Cochin State, the Government have also directed that motor vehicles, other than transport vehicles, for which quarterly tax has been paid in the Province of Madras, will not be entitled to the refund of any portion of the quarterly tax on leaving the Province of Madras, during the quarter, for the Cochin State. But any tax paid for a quarter or quarters, subsequent to the quarter in which the transfer is made, will be refunded.

Consequent on the orders exempting motor vehicles registered in the State from taxation in this Province, no short-term licences will hereafter be issued in respect of motor vehicles brought into the Province of Madras from the Cochin State or in respect of those acquired in the Province of Madras and taken to the Cochin State, after a temporary stay.

[December 13]

Fees of Military Personnel's Children

Under the existing orders children and dependants of military personnel eligible for educational concessions, and demobilized personnel granted, the benefits of the further educational scheme are exempted from the payment of special fees, in addition to tuition fees. Special fees are of two kinds, viz., (1) library, laboratory and medical examination fees and (2) Games, physical training, literary association and reading room fees.

The Government have directed that the pupils referred to above in all schools and colleges under local bodies shall themselves pay the special fees falling under item (2) above from the second term of the school or academic year, as the case may be, for 1947–48, while those studying in aided, Government and University institutions shall pay the special fees themselves from the next school or academic year. They will continue to be exempted from the special fees under item (1).

[December 15]

Officials Dismissed for Corruption

During the year 1946, the investigation of the special staff had resulted in the dismissal of the following Government servants: Sri. M. Narayana Ayyar, Agricultural Demonstrator, Tirumangalam; Sri P. S. Narayanaswami Ayyar, Manager, Office of the Director of Cinchona Department, Ootacamund; Mr. Charles, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Guntur Range; Sri N. Sarangapani Ayyangar, District Educational Officer, South Arcot; Sri P. Venkataraman Chettiyar, Taluk Supply Officer, Kulittalai, Trichinopoly district; Sri S. V. Ramiah, Sub-Registrar, Madura district; Mr. K. John, Sub-Registrar, Anantapur district; Muhammad Mowla Sahib, Sub-Registrar, Kurnool district; V. Kanniah Nayudu, peon, North Arcot district; Sri Doraiswamy Ayyar, Sub-Inspector of Police, South Arcot district; Shaik Jaffar, Police Constable, Nellore district; Jayaramulu, Police Constable, South Arcot district; Muhammad Khan, Police Constable, South Arcot District; Swaminathan, Head Constable, Ramnad district; Natarajan, Police Constable, Ramnad district; Kanakasabapathi, Police Constable, Ramnad District; Marudachalam, Police Constable, Gobichettipalayam, Coimbatore District; and Ramaswamy Nayudu, Head Constable, Ramnad district.

[December 15]

Revenue and Expenditure

According to the Budget for 1947–48, the revenue receipts amount to Rupees 4,973·38 lakhs. Revenue accounts to the end of August 1947 stand at Rs. 1,859·08 lakhs as against Rupees 1,674·36 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The expenditure on Revenue Account to the end of August 1947 totals Rs. 1,491·76 lakhs as against Rupees 1,479·96 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946. [December 16]

Harijan Welfare Officers

Government have ordered that the District Labour Officers who are attending to the amelioration of the conditions of the communities eligible for help by the Labour Department, shall, hereafter, be designated as District Harijan Welfare Officers.

[December 7]

Estates Land Act—Report for Fasli 1356 (1946–47)

The following is the summary of the report on the working of the Madras Estates Land Act during fasli 1356:—

(1) *General remarks.*—The working of the main Act continued to be satisfactory. The relationship between the landholders and the ryots was generally not cordial during the fasli, the main complaints of ryots against landholders being (1) the high rents, (2) the assignment of communal porambokes by the proprietors for large sums of money, (3) neglect of repairs to irrigation sources, (4) the selling or cutting of the trees in communal and forest lands by the landlords.

(2) *Treatment of porambokes.*—Many cases of unlawful interference by the proprietors in the districts of East Godavari and Kistna with tank beds and other porambokes set apart for the common use of the villagers have been brought to notice.

(3) *Suits and applications.*—The total number of suits and applications under the Estates Land Act instituted during fasli 1356 was 87,197 as against 120,532 in fasli 1355. The marked decrease is due to the prevailing high prices of agricultural produce and the consequent improvement in the financial condition of the ryots who are able to pay their suits without difficulty. This decrease is also due to the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Act which was enacted during the fasli. There was however a large increase in the number of suits and applications filed during the fasli. The total number of proceedings pending at the beginning of fasli 1356 was 43,856. Together with 87,197 received during fasli, the total for disposal was 131,053. Out of these 81,171 were disposed of and the balance pending at the end of the fasli was 49,882.

(4) *Particulars of land sold.*—The value realized per acre in the fasli under review was less than the estimated value by Rs. 44–6–0 per acre as against Rs. 30–13–0 per acre on the previous fasli. The disparity between the estimated value and the amount realized continues to be wide. It is as usual due to (i) want of competition at the sales which resulted in the landholders themselves purchasing the lands for nominal amounts which were just equal to the arrears and (ii) the under-estimation of the property. The particulars prepared in two sections: (i) forced sales and (ii) true sales; according to the instructions of the Government show that the estimated value of the lands shown under "True Sales" works out to Rs. 31 per acre and the value realized to Rs. 20 per acre. The corresponding figures under the "Forced Sales" are Rs. 68 per acre and Rs. 12 per acre. This shows that disparity exists to a marked degree only under "Forced Sales".

[December 17]

Government Grants to Secondary Schools

The Government of Madras have accepted the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, that (1) the teaching grants for all aided secondary schools for 1946–47 may be assessed on the basis of one-half of the approved net cost, as was done in previous years, and that (2) teaching grants on the basis of two-thirds of the approved net cost may be paid to those managements which adopt the revised scales of pay to teachers with retrospective effect from 1st June 1947. The grant for the period between 1st April 1947 and 31st May 1947 should be calculated on the basis of half the net cost.

Concessions to Political Sufferers

In pursuance of the Press Note, dated 14th August 1947, the Government have issued orders separately for the grant of land to political sufferers. Each political sufferer will be assigned five acres of wet land or its equivalent in any single case. The land assigned to the political sufferers will be free of market value but should not be sold, mortgaged and alienated for a period of ten years. Families of those who have died in the political movements inaugurated by the Indian National Congress or under its sanction and also of those who took part in the movements but died subsequently are also eligible for these grants. Applications for the land should be sent to the Collectors of the districts concerned with particulars of the imprisonment suffered. Many applications have been received by the Hon'ble Minister. They will be forwarded to the Collector concerned. The Provincial Congress Committees and District Congress Committees are requested to send to the Collectors all applications that were received by them already or will be received in time. The Government will also consider applications if 10 or more join together and apply for a plot of land for purposes of collective or co-operative cultivation.

[December 23]

Rural Reconstruction

The Government have directed that in connexion with the Intensive Rural Reconstruction work in selected firkas and centres, schemes under the improvement to 'Village Communications' and 'Rural Water-supply' heads should be taken up immediately. They have sanctioned an expenditure up to a maxmium of Rs. 50,000 for 'Rural Water-supply' schemes and Rs. 50,000 for improvement to 'Village Communications,' in each selected firka and centre. The total expenditure should not exceed the sum allotted to each firka together with the amount of the village contributions in cash.

The Collectors of Districts have been directed to take very urgent steps for executing the various schemes forwarded or being forwarded by them. They have also been directed to spend the amounts sanctioned for each firka and centre in consultation with the Firka Development Committees, which will select the 'Rural Water-supply' and 'Village Communications' schemes, arrange them in the order of their priority and apportion the amount among the various villages in the firkas. The money spent on these schemes in the respective villages should be in proportion to the voluntary contributions of money or labour or materials, which the villagers are willing to make towards these improvements. [December 23]

(*Continued from page* 7)

amount of beneficiary measures may not produce appreciable results. The people concerned have to radically change their outlook on life and things in the first instance. This fact is often forgotten by people who think that rural reconstruction is an one sided affair and that Government can produce results irrespective of the attitude of the people.

No doubt the Government have an important part to play but the more fundamental part is that of the masses. They have to shake off all the old notions and superstitions about men and things and come to a determination to improve their lot. If such a determination is forthcoming then that along with Government's measures are sure to produce good results.

From Far and Near

Social Education Plan

The Central Government have decided to launch a scheme for Social Education.

It is now widely believed that in order to create the right type of citizens to face the tasks before them consequent upon the newly acquired independence there should be systematic efforts to inculcate in the people of the country a better sense of citizenship, social behaviour and social privileges.

Hence a comprehensive plan for imparting Social Education, which will embrace not only the school-going population but also the population which will remain outside the scope of school education, becomes essential.

The Ministry of Education has decided to organize the publication of pamphlets in this connexion in English as well as the more important Indian languages such as Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati and Bengali.

Besides training in citizenship, the subjects to be dealt with will be a glimpse into the cultural heritage, the awakening of India and the trend of the national movement and introducing the people of India to one another.

* * *

Prohibition Propaganda in Bombay

In order to demonstrate to the public the ways in which the resources of intoxicants, especially palm juice, can be exploited in a manner helpful to the building up of a strong and a free India, the Bombay Provincial Prohibition Board has set up a stall in the Free India Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition which was opened by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's Food Minister, yesterday at Azad Maidan.

The stall has been divided into two sections—one illustrating the benefits of Nira and manufacture of gur and sugar from it and the other containing charts and posters providing useful and interesting information about production and consumption of different intoxicants.

* * *

Relief for Bombay Agriculturists

Further progress has been recorded in the measures taken by the Bombay Government during October last for the protection of Adiwasi agricultural tenants from the exploitation of landlords in Thana district.

A landlord of Dahanu taluka was ordered to repay Rs. 101 excess rent he had collected from 21 Adiwasi tenants. In the case of 68 others, the excess rents collected by the landlords were adjusted to the current year's rents. The rent in the case of nine more tenants was reduced by an amicable settlement.

A landlord of Bordi was compelled to pay Rs. 86 to his tenant as compensation for cutting trees.

A number of landlords were fined Rs. 50 each, for failure to pass receipts for rents received from their tenants in Mokhadapeta, and one was fined Rs. 30 in Umbergaon taluka. Reasonable rent was fixed in the case of 53 tenants in Umbergaon and Dahanu talukas.

* * *

Land Development in Bombay

The Forest Department has been carrying on successfully the experiment of transforming not only steep slopes of unproductive land into fertile land but also land with rocks and big boulders embedded in it.

The Department has laid out in Bijapur and Dharwar districts a total of 40 plots, which are known as 'demonstration plots' and has succeeded, with the help of contour trenches and bunds, in growing cashew, mango, sissum and also other less useful though remunerative trees.

With the conservation of soil, water and moisture and training of nallas and streams, it should be possible to reclaim waste land particularly in the regions classified as famine areas and scarcity tracts. The Government have for some time been concentrating on reclamation of land in these areas with the modern technique of land improvement and anti-erosion methods, and the 'demonstration plots' laid out by the Forest Department are an integral part of the general land improvement drive.

* * *

Honorary Magistracy in Central Provinces

It is understood that the Provincial Government have decided to abolish the institution of honorary magistrates in [illegible]

Sugarcane Development Committee in Bihar

The Provincial Government have appointed a Sugarcane Development Committee to make recommendations for the improvement and development of the growing and marketing of sugarcane and the manufacture of its products in the province and of all matters incidental thereto.

* * *

Resettlement of Refugees in United Provinces

The United Provinces Government have decided to push through a colonization plan which will provide for the resettlement of 2,000 refugee families and a large number of ex-servicemen. The whole plan, when completed, will cost about Rs. 2 crores. It is designed to bring the uncultivated area of the Ganges' Khader in Meerut Division under the plough and to retain the Tarai region in the sub-mountain regions of Naini Tal district. The latter area being dangerously malarial, a request has been made to the Defence Department for power-sprayers.

The colonization operations are to start almost immediately and two tractor-units have been acquired from the Central Government for this purpose. Ten thousand acres in each of the two regions are proposed to be reclaimed this year at the cost of Rs. 57 lakhs.

* * *

Combating Leprosy in Central Provinces

The Central Provinces Government have appointed an Advisory Committee to advice on co-ordination of Government and voluntary measures for the prevention and treatment of leprosy and allied problems connected with this disease, consisting of twelve members with Hon'ble Minister for Public Health as Chairman.

* * *

Bombay Grants to Boy Scouts

The Government of Bombay have sanctioned an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 15,000 to the Boys Scout Section, Hindustan Scout Association, Bombay, during the current year. The grant will be paid in two equal instalments.

* * *

Conciliation Board in Bihar

According to a Patna message the Bihar Government have constituted a Board of Conciliation for promoting

settlement of industrial dispute that may arise from time to time between employers and employees in sugar factories in Bihar during the crushing season in 1947-48.

* * *

New Delhi Schemes

A women's section was established recently at New Delhi under the auspices of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation for the welfare of refugee women and children with Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru as the Honorary Director and Shrimati Hannah Sen as the Honorary Secretary.

Schemes for training women in different crafts and professions are under consideration. Some of the crafts for which arrangements are being made are spinning and weaving, calico-printing, dress-making, basketry and willow-work, fret-work and wooden toys, including rag-dolls, hand-knitting and embroidery, soap-making, preservation of fruits and vegetables, making of tin and linen buttons, bleaching and dyeing, weaving of nawar, tape and borders, typing, stenography and clerical and commercial work. Similar schemes for training children are also being considered. Arrangements are also being made for starting a Women's Home at Delhi.

* * *

Geological Survey Plans

A plan to expand the Geological Survey of India to more than five times its pre-war cadre is envisaged by the Central Government.

It is also proposed to create a Bureau of Mines, manned by experts, in an advisory capacity for the present, for production, conservation and utilization of minerals in the country.

Another step taken in the direction consists in efforts made for increasing the technical man-power in the country by reorganization of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, by implementing the recommendations of the Geological Education Committee, and by sending abroad on scholarship and on deputation, officials and non-officials, for higher education and training in mining, geology, geophysics and allied subjects.

At the same time, schemes are under way for giving necessary encouragement for the domestic utilization of ores and local processing, refining and treatment of minerals.

* * *

Khadi Training Centre in United Provinces

The Hon'ble Shri Sampurnanand Minister for Education and Labour, inaugurated a Khadi Training Centre under Gram Udyog Trust recently at village Pokhrayan in Kanpur district. It was a pleasant function. More than 300 Congress volunteers in uniform presented him a guard of honour.

Addressing the public meeting held under the presidentship of Shri Ram Ratan Gupta of Kanpur, the Hon'ble Minister declared that though he believed in the industrialization of the country, he was convinced that the smaller village industries might also play their part.

* * *

Grow More Food Officers in Bihar

The Bihar Government have appointed a number of Grow More Food Officers to step up food production.

* * *

Leprosy Relief

A meeting of the Akhil Bharat Kushta Samiti (a committee formed at the recent leprosy conference held at Wardha) was held in the Harijan Colony, Delhi, yesterday, Dr. M. D. Gilder, Chairman of the Committee presiding. Among the members who attended were Dr. Jivaraj Mehta, Dr. Das Gupta, Shri Jajuji, Dr. Sushila Nayyar and Shri T. N. Jagadisan, the Secretary.

The immediate objects of the Committee were declared to be the finding and training of workers—lay and medical—and starting leprosy relief and control centres, particularly in rural areas. At Dr. Jivaraj Mehta's suggestion, the Committee asked its Secretary to be in search of suitable ex-patients.

* * *

Stamp Designs

The Government of India have decided to hold a competition in designs for India's new Swaraj stamps which will be issued in 1948. Nearly Rs. 7,500 will be given as prizes to the winners.

Artists are being invited to submit designs that have a definite relation to India's new status. The effigy of the King will no longer be a feature of India's stamps.

It is learnt that new designs will be used for the following denominations:—3 pies, half anna, 9 pies, 1 anna, 1½ anna, 2 annas, 2½ annas, 3½ annas, 4 annas, 6 annas, 10 annas, 12 annas, Re. 1, Rs. 2, 5, 10, 15 and 25.

The competition, which is open to all resident in the Indian Union, will be held in New Delhi under the auspices of the Indian Institute of Art in Industry. Entries must be submitted before February 15, 1948 through the Institute's offices at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay or Madras. The selection of designs will be made by a panel of five judges. An exhibition of all selected designs will be held after the competition in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

There will be three prizes: I Prize of Rs. 3,000 for the full series accepted from any one competitor, II Prize of Rs. 1,000 to the best individual design and III Prize of Rs. 500 for the second best individual design. In addition, there will be not more than twelve awards of Rs. 250 each to approved designs.

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Labour Welfare in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have constituted an Advisory Board for the school for training of Labour Welfare Workers in Bombay. The Board will advise on all matters pertaining to the training of Labour Welfare Workers. The Board will also co-opt one representative of the Social Service League, Bombay.

* * *

Rates of interest in Bombay

Under the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, the Government have issued a notification fixing the maximum rates of interest at 6 per cent and 9 per cent for secured and unsecured loans respectively, throughout the Province of Bombay. The notification has been published in the Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated December 27, 1947.

* * *

Hand-spinning in Bombay Jail

The Government of Bombay have approved of a proposal to introduce hand-spinning in the Yerawada Central Prison and has sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 2,500 during the current financial year.

* * *

Loans to refugee students

Non-Muslim students from Western Pakistan who are unable to pursue their studies or training for lack of funds and whose parents or guardians have settled down in centrally administered areas may apply for loans to the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, for continuing their technical and collegiate education.

Charkha Classes in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has approved the proposal to organise, as a post-war reconstruction measure, Charkha Classes at the various labour welfare centres in the Province for the benefit of women and children, dependent on the industrial workers for their maintenance and having leisure to take to spinning as a subsidiary occupation.

The Charkha Classes will also provide for imparting instruction in carding of cotton and preparing of slivers.

Twenty-seven Charkha Classes will be conducted for a period of one year in the first instance.

* * *

Royal Indian Navy Examination

An examination for selection of candidates for Commissioned Ranks (permanent cadre) of the Royal Indian Navy will be held by the Federal Public Service Commission at Allahabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Nagpur on February 19, 1948 and subsequent days. Candidates who qualify at the examination will appear before a Services Selection Board for final selection.

The candidates must have been born not earlier than September 2, 1928 and not later than September 1, 1930. They must have passed the Matriculation or an equivalent examination. The last date for the receipt of application by the Federal Public Service Commission is December 20, 1947. The approximate cost of training to be borne by the parent or guardian of the candidate is £116.

Application forms and full particulars are obtainable direct from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Kennedy House, Annexe, Simla.

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Bombay scheme for composting of town refuse

Sanction has been accorded by the Government of Bombay to the continuance of the scheme for composting town refuse of municipalities into manure, for a period of about five years at an estimated cost of more than Rs. 5,00,000. During this period it is proposed to train deputies of 82 Municipalities and 140 Gram Panchayat villages in compost methods. The Municipalities and Gram Panchayats will also be helped to start compost work and organize their depots. Compost production will be stepped up from the present 40,000 tons to 130,000 per year by helping the municipalities in securing land for compost depots, supply of iron posts for their carts and trucks, supply of petrol, etc. The total production of compost during the period of five years is expected to be 500,000 tons. This would be sufficient to manure 100,000 acres of irrigated land and would give 390,000 maunds of additional foodgrains.

* * *

Regional text book committees in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have appointed three Regional Text-Book Committees for the preparation of text-books in Marathi, Gujarathi and Kannada for the first four years of the primary course in the Province.

* * *

Building scheme in Ahmedabad

The foundation stone of the first building in Ahmedabad under a scheme of erecting 125,000 tenements by the Government in the principal industrial towns in the Bombay Province was recently laid down by the Hon'ble Minister for Home and Revenue. It was pointed out that 15,000 tenements will be built by the Government and the remainder by such agencies as Local Bodies, Industrialists, Co-operative Societies and private enterprise with Government aid.

* * *

Profession of pharmacy

The Government of India has decided to regulate the profession of pharmacy and a Bill has been introduced in the Dominion Parliament. There is no authority whatsoever at present to regulate the profession of pharmacy. The practice has been lastly in the hands of persons known as "Compounders" and they are both trained and untrained. The profession is unorganized. There is no provision for registration. There is no check to prevent untrained persons from undertaking the work of compounding and dispensing medicines without any restrictions. The Bill is intended to remedy these defects. It seeks to provide for Central and Provincial Councils that will not only prescribe minimum standard for training and qualification but will also inspect training institutions and will maintain registers of qualified persons.

* * *

Co-operative Farming

Opening the Free India Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at Bombay, Dr. Rajendra Prasad made a spirited plea for improved methods of cultivation and co-operative farming. India had been an agricultural country for thousands of years and the major question facing Indians to-day is the improvement of agriculture. He suggested that steps should be taken to make the lands more fertile, to adopt improved methods of cultivation and collective or co-operative farming where the holdings were small. As regards industries, Dr. Prasad said that while he was in favour of large scale industries it should not be done at the cost of cottage industries because the latter was vital in village life. He also referred to the necessity of promoting cattle welfare in the country.

* * *

Advice to Bombay Police

The Inspector-General of Police, Bombay, speaking at the passing-out parade and prize distribution at the Police Training School, Nasik, referred to what ought to be the ideals of the Police Force under the new dispension. In the course of his speach, he said: "The times which the Police Force is being called upon to face are very difficult ones. We had been brought up in certain environments. If we are brought up in these circumstances, naturally we do not realize that our duty is to be polite to the public and we fail to understand properly that we are the servants of the public. If you remember that you are the friends of the public then you are serving your own countrymen."

* * *

Government and Publicity Work

Replying to a deputation of the representatives of the film industry in Bombay, Mr. G. S. Bhaljia, Secretary to the Ministry of Information, Government of India, explained that in the past, Government's machinery of publicity was looked upon with some suspicion but under changed circumstances, its function was to bring people closer to their Government and to one another.

* * *

Innovations in Bihar

The Bihar Government have recently placed on the Statute book what is called the Bihar Home Guards Act and a Special Officer has been appointed

to organize the Home Guards Battalion for the Province. The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act has also come into law. According to the tentative plans of the Government under this Act, 25 villages will be taken up in each subdivision during the first year of the experiment and then a full division in a district during the second year and a district in the third year. It is visualized that in the last stage every village in the Province which containing roughly 70,000 villages will be brought under the Act in the course of 3 or 4 years.

* * *

Education Schemes in U.P.

The United Provinces' new schemes of organization of primary and secondary education provides for Hindi as a compulsory language in all classes. The main stages of education in the Province will be

(1) pre-basic or nursery education,
(2) basic education, and
(3) higher secondary education.

compulsory education when introduced in the Province will begin at the age of 6.

* * *

Unregulated Factories in U.P.

The United Press of India learns that the U.P. Government is shortly undertaking a rapid survey of all the small and unregulated factories, shops and establishments as regards the working conditions and nature of employment with a view to arriving at some conclusions which may be helpful in regulating all these unregulated factories.

It is believed that soon after the survey is made the Government will enact a legislation standardizing the working conditions in all these factories and set up a wage board to bring uniformity in the wages in all these factories in the Province.

* * *

"War Service" in U.P.

For the purpose of recruitment to vacancies earmarked for war service candidates the U.P. Government have recognized as war service, service rendered by medical personnel in Ordnance factories between May 1, 1942 to May 8, 1945. Sanitary Inspectors employed by the Army will also be eligible for recruitment under the category.

Production drive in Bombay

Considerable progress has been recorded in the working of the schemes of production and distribution of different kinds of manure and the destruction of grasshoppers. In one district more than 2,000 tons of groundnut cake and other manure have been distributed to the cultivators and nearly 4,500 pits have been dug for compost manure during the current year, while paddy and jowar crops worth well over Rs. 9 lakhs have been saved from destruction by the grasshoppers. At present the total area under sweet potates is 2,000 acres under kharif and 2,000 under rabi. The Agriculture Department has plans to increase this area by another 2,000 acres during the ensuing kharif season.

* * *

Help to Farmers in Bombay

Speaking recently the Minister for Forestery and Agriculture explained the difficulties in obtaining plant and machinery. To get over these difficulties, he said the Government had issued orders freezing agricultural machinery, particularly tractors, pumping equipment and oil engines and would allot these to agriculturists. He advised the agriculturists to form co-operative societies wherever possible, as these would have a better chance of having agricultural machinery allotted to them.

* * *

Prohibition Guards in Bombay

The Bombay Government have appointed a General Officer Commanding of the Voluntary Prohibition Guards for the Province. He will shortly be starting the work of appointing Prohibition Guards.

* * *

Bombay concession to Political Sufferers

The Government of Bombay have extended the concession regarding the reinstatement of those who resigned or were dismissed during the Civil Disobdience Movement of 1942 to primary school teachers.

The primary teachers who resigned or were dismissed on the ground of participation, direct or indirect, in the Civil Disobdience Movement of 1942, will, on their reinstatement in the posts they held at the time of their resignation or dismissal, be given the pay and seniority in their grade which they would have enjoyed, had they not resigned or had not been dismissed from service and their service will be treated as continuous, the break in service being counted as leave without pay.

* * *

Refugee students in Bombay

The Government of Bombay have announced its policy in regard to the fees payable by the refugee students in Government Colleges. Students who are unable to pay fees should make an application in writing to the Head of the Institution in which they are studying, giving full particulars of their circumstances. Heads of Colleges will forward all such applications with their remarks to the Refugee Officer, who after investigation of each case, will obtain Government Orders which will then be communicated to the Heads of the Colleges.

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Electrification Scheme in U.P.

The Central Technical Power Board has submitted to the Government of India a rural electricity plan costing 49 lakhs to be completed in ten years for providing electricity in rural areas of the Central Provinces and Berar.

* * *

Bombay subsidy to Industrial Association

The Bombay Government have sanctioned to the Provincial Industrial Co-operative Association a grant-in-aid of Rs. 48, 425 towards the expenses to be incurred by the Association during 1947–48 on organization, propaganda, training, etc.

* * *

Power Development in C.P.

The C.P. Government propose to take up shortly Nursery Power Development schemes. These schemes are conceived to make the people electricity-conscious and to build up loads in advance of the construction of the major hydro-electric projects to enable a larger utilization of the power developed by these projects as soon as they are constructed.

Side light on Provinces and States

West Bengal measure to check speculation in Land

The Government of West Bengal have been considering the urgent necessity for pegging the price of land in the Province in view of the fact that there has been a precipitous increase of land values in recent months, specially since June 1947. A large number of people anxious to find a place of security at any cost have been pouring into the Province driven by circumstances beyond their control.

This has provided a unique opportunity to a class of greedy and unscrupulous landowners to exploit their misery. Apart from this, there is very serious shortage of housing accommodation in Calcutta and its neighbouring areas as well as in the other towns of the Province where there has been no building activity worth mentioning since December 1941. Many people are either compelled to buy building plots at fantastic prices or to go without even the prospect of having a roof over their heads in the reasonably near future. In order to meet this situation the Government propose to fix land value with retrospective effect from January 1, 1947, the maximum price allowed being pegged to the prevailing prices in December 1941, plus a suitable percentage on account of appreciation of values since then. Very early legislation in this connexion is contemplated. Government want to give this warning that if any landowner indulges in speculating in land values or charges unfair prices he may find himself compelled to refund amounts realized in excess of the prices to be fixed by legislation although such transactions may have taken place before January 1947.

* * *

Distribution of Expenditure in U.P.

The U.P. Government have decided to conduct an enquiry to obtain reliable information relating to the distribution of expenditure of those classes of people about which no information exists at present. The enquiry will, in the first instance, be confined to three professions, the medical profession, the legal profession and the teaching profession, and will be conducted for the present only in fifteen important towns of the Province. Announcing this decision the Hon'ble Minister for Education said:

"The need of reliable statistics in all spheres of human activity for the purpose of a well organized public life and good Government is now fairly well recognized. Unfortunately, as is generally known, there is a great dearth of statistical information in our country.

The United Provinces Government have a full-fledged Department of Economics and Statistics which has been engaged for some time past in collecting various types of statistics on a reliable basis. That department has an ambitious plan of work for the future with a view to filling in the wide and important gaps which at present exist in our statistical knowledge. One of the many important subjects on which full information is not available is the way in which their income is spent by various classes of people residing in this Province. Some inquiries have been conducted in the past to ascertain distribution of expenditure in respect of some sections of the public, but information is completely lacking at present with regard to the rest of the population.

As a large number of persons engaged in these professions reside in these towns, it would not be feasible to approach each one of them for obtaining statistical information which it is proposed to collect nor is it necessary to do so as practically identical results can be obtained by conducting a sample inquiry based on sound statistical principles. It is, however, obvious that it would be impossible to obtain reliable information without the willing co-operation of the public and in particular of those who are included in the sample selected for the inquiry. As the information proposed to be collected is sought in public interest and will help to fill up a gap in our knowledge on a subject which has hitherto remained unexplored, Government earnestly hope and trust that all those who are approached for providing the required information in this connexion will render their full help and co-operation in the successful completion of the inquiry."

* * *

Orissa Government's Ordinances

The Government of Orissa have decided to immediately promulgate two Ordinances with a view to avoiding friction between cultivators and landlords.

Under the first Ordinance, all cultivating tenants in ryotwari or zamandari areas holding lands on condition of delivering a share of produce of such land, who are being evicted by landlords should be given protection against such eviction for a period of two years. This protection will, however, not extend, to (*a*) a member of the owner's family or (*b*) a servant of wages in cash or kind but not in crop share, or a hired servant cultivating the land under the personal supervision of the owner or any member of his family and (*c*) a cultivating ryot holding his lands under a ryot or ryots possessing 33 acres of lands on 1st November 1947.

Revenue officers will be invested with powers to decide after summary enquiry in the locality the claims and objections with regard to possession as well as division of the produce between the landlord and the cultivator. No landlord will be eligible to realize more than two-fifths of the gross produce as his share. It will also be provided that any money payable by virtue of an order under this Ordinance shall be recoverable as an arrear of public demand. The proposed measure giving protection will have retrospective effect from April 1, 1946.

The object of the second Ordinance is to make the alienation of communal private and forest lands in contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance void and punishable with retrospective effect from April 1946.

The object of these two Ordinances, says a Press Note issued in this connection, is to avoid, as far as possible before receipt of the report of Land Revenue and Land Tenure Committee constituted by Government for considering the introduction of a comprehensive legislation, all causes of friction between the interests of the landlords and Bhag Chasis.

The Press Note reiterates that it is the Government policy to eliminate all intermediaries between the cultivators and the State.

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Mechanized cultivation in U.P.

Described as the largest land reclamation plan through mechanization

in the East—outside Soviet Russia—a scheme will be put into operation in the Ganga Khadar terrain of the U.P. shortly. On December 16, heavy mechanical machinery costing about Rs. 10 lakhs has turned up the first sods of 50,000 acres of culturable waste land, now overgrown with jungle and tall grasses. Kept as a preserve for the sport of pigsticking for two centuries, this land will now under India's national Government be sown with food crops to bridge the gap between food demands and available supplies.

Explaining this new direction to the food production campaign, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture stated that the Government efforts during the last four years to grow more food had been greatly handicapped by their inability to bring culturable waste lands under cultivation. Till recently the exact location of the acreages of these areas were not known to the Provincial Governments with any degree of accuracy. With the aid of financial assistance from the Centre, West Bengal, Bihar, C.P., Orissa and U.P., have carried out surveys of such lands, and there is now a better appreciation of the location of these areas, and the steps necessary to reclaim them. The tracts have long been breeding grounds of the malaria parasite, and the first task, therefore, is to undertake malarial control measures before any reclamation work can be started. Such measures have already commenced in U.P. where 250,000 acres are available in the Ganga Khadar and Tarai regions.

The five-year land reclamation plan of U.P. envisages bringing 100,000 acres of land under the plough. For this purpose it is necessary to have heavy land reclamation machinery, heavy tractors and heavy ploughs. As this machinery is very expensive, the Government of India have decided to assist Provinces by providing the machinery, the operating staff and appliances. They will also reclaim these lands for U.P. on the principle of 'no profit no loss'. Without investing any large funds the Provincial Government will get the land reclaimed within five years, according to their own reclamation programme. As the time available between the reclamation of land and the actual cultivation in U.P. and Bihar is very short, and the time for settling new colonists will be at least a year, the Provincial Government have asked the Government of India to undertake mechanical cultivation until the colonists can be settled. The Government of India have agreed to this and it is anticipated that the expenditure involved will be Rs. 50 lakhs for one year.

Operations on the next land reclamation scheme, which will be in the Tarai region, are expected to commence in January 1948.

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Housing Shortage in Bombay

The Government of Bombay were determined to proceed with their housing scheme immediately, declared Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, Minister for Labour, Bombay, speaking at a reception held in his honour by the Ahmedabad Municipality recently.

But that would touch only a fringe of the problem and would not relieve the veritable shortage of housing prevailing in the big towns of the Province like Bombay and Ahmedabad. The problem could be solved only by the joint efforts of Government, Municipality and co-operative societies, he added.

The Minister assured the people that Government would extend all possible help to co-operative societies and individuals in acquiring land and essential materials. However, it was futile, he said, to wait for the day when cement and steel would be available freely. He could not say when things would return to normal and therefore, advised the people to go ahead with their building programme even without cement and steel and by means of other available substitutes.

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Home Guards in Bombay

Recently the first anniversary of the Home Guard in Bombay was celebrated. Speaking on the occasion the Hon'ble the Premier said "Our object in this organization is to give an opportunity to people moved by a public spirit who wish to devote some of their time and energy to the noble work of protecting their homes, their friends' and their neighbours' homes and their hometown. There is room enough in it for all. We want in it big business magnates, managers of big and small companies, doctors professors, pleaders, administrators, clerks, shop-keepers—in fact, everybody. It is the duty of every citizen rich or poor to protect and help his neighbours specially the weak and the helpless. It is in the interest of all to see that the ecomomic life of this city is not [illegible]ated. The [illegible]h man has more to give as he stands to lose more and he, therefore, should not stint in giving his full support.

"I should like to make it very clear that Home Guards are not additional Police. It is also not a parallel military organization. It is a volunteer body of people who have come together and have organized themselves primarily for the purpose of protecting not only life and property but also culture and civilization and other things which are more dear to all of us than even life and property. I think it is misleading to talk in terms of having this organization as smart as the military. Smartness is not its objective.

"What is wanted is real public spirit—the spirit of service. Such a spirit is not a monopoly of ex-military officers or for the matter of that any class of people.

"There have also been suggestions that different classes or communities of people should organize themselves separately, that the big business firms should have their own organization, large offices should have their own organization, or different localities should have their separate organization. I am convinced that such distinct organizations will lead to disharmony rather than to the unity and harmony. They will find it very difficult, if not impossible, to work and to pull together. There will not only be rivalries but even jealousies on small points.

"The present organization is meant for all, and there is room enough in it for all. Its constitution is elastic and it is not tied down by any elaborate or strict set of rules. There is, of course, no room in it for any snobbishness or exclusiveness. For all public-spirited men working as equals I have no doubt that this organization will be found most suitable.

"An organization like the Home Guards will be invaluable for the country's development during the next few years; on its strength and efficiency our progress can be accelerated."

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Co-operative Village Grain Banks in Hyderabad

The present scheme in vogue is mainly based on the principle of co-operation from the village population. The compulsory Levy Order introduced during the year 1353 fasli, was amended to suit the changed conditions and provision was made for forming a Village Grain Bank in each

village if 75 per cent of the cultivators of the particular village agree. Five seers out of every maund of grain collected from each cultivator under levy are allowed to be retained and deposited in the Grain Bank to his credit. Thus as much as one-eighth of the total levy received from the village will be available in the village itself to meet the needs of petty cultivators and landless labourers. The grain retained in the Bank to the credit of each cultivator cannot be withdrawn for a specific period of five or ten years whatever the case may be, but profits are allowed to accumulate on the deposits of the shareholders converting them subsequently into non-withdrawable bonus shares. At the end of the appointed period, the members can appropriate the profits accrued on their original and bonus shares and cease their connection with the Banks, if they like. In the meantime, they can utilize the services of the Banks, if they like. In the meantime, they can utilize the services of the Bank by borrowing grain at low rate of interest whenever required. These Grain Banks are designed to become self-supporting in due course.

The Village Grain Banks serve three-fold purposes. They not only enable the cultivators to save something in kind which otherwise they cannot do in cash but will also serve as seed stores for distributing improved varieties and as insurance against local food shortages.

Already 13,436 villages have got these Banks, of which 11,727 are registered institutions. It is the aim to bring into being one such Bank in all the 21,000 villages of the Dominions and perhaps very soon the process of forming these useful bodies in the remaining villages will be completed.

Taluk Development Unions in Hyderabad

The Taluk Development Unions have been established in each of the 104 taluks of the Dominions. Groups of village institutions are linked up with the branches of these Taluk Development Unions which in their turn are affiliated to the Hyderabad Co-operative Commercial Corporation, Limited. These Taluk Development Unions are substitutes of the previous Local Units and the membership comprises of not only businessmen but also producers of the taluks concerned. They have been entrusted with the work of procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains in their respective sepheres on behalf of the Hyderabad Co-operative Commercial Corporation, Limited, on a commission basis. They have been working well since their formation and have become popular both with the cultivators and consumers.

With the Village Grain Banks as the base affiliated to the Taluk Development Unions which in their turn are linked up with the Hyderabad Co-operative Commercial Corporation, Limited, as the apex body in the Dominions, the co-operative organization is complete and makes available to the producer in the field the facilities of storing, marketing and obtaining manures and implements for him at cheaper rates on co-operative basis eliminating the individual profit motive from all these transactions. Local food shortages will be met from the grains stocked in these Banks which will also, through their Taluk Unions, arrange to distribute improved varieties of seeds to be propagated by the Agricultural Department. The Taluk Development Unions are of valuable help to the parent body in procuring large quantities of foodgrains and in running sales depots in rural areas for distributing foodgrains on co-operative lines. Their turnover is now in crores and will multiply itself with an expansion in transactions as multipurpose societies undertaking, besides the above functions, the distribution of manure, co-operative warehousing, etc.

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Orange growing in Bihar

The Agriculture department of the Government of Bihar has taken necessary steps to develop the orange growing industry in the province. Investigation and the field trials carried out by the Government horticulturists reveal that the district of Palamau possesses excellent soil and climatic conditions for the growth of oranges. Orange orchards grown at Japla and the Chianki Agricultural Farms have shown that the average income per acre per year from orange cultivation is Rs. 1,000 whereas net income from cultivation of cereals and other crops varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 200. The Government has started a campaign for the cultivation of organges and have promised necessary facilities to the cultivators. More than 7,000 orange grafts have been indented from Nagpur and have been distributed to the cultivators. Apart from meeting the province's requirements, a rich industrial area extending up to Calcutta will be available for marketing. A decision to step up fruit production in the province has been taken by the Government. The Government of India, it is learnt, have advised the provinces to increase the fruit production by 100 per cent, and for that purpose have already promised to grant the provincial governments sufficient financial assistance. According to the preliminary estimate made by the Bihar Government, Bihar will yield an additional 23,000 tons of fruits from next year and the acreage under fruits has been increased by 7,544 acres. Arrangements have also been made to start classes for the training of gardeners in the Pusa Agricultural Farm and the Sabour Agricultural College.

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Junior Cadet Corps for Bombay

The Government of Bombay have decided to introduce a Junior Cadet Corps of a limited strength, at present, of 3,000 boys every year with the co-operation of the Military authorities.

The Government of India has under consideration the report of the National Cadet Corps Committee. When the Central Government's decisions are made known, the Government of Bombay will work under the All-India scheme. In the meantime, it is considered urgently necessary to make a beginning.

The total strength of 3,000 boys every year will be distributed over the whole Province and boys over 14, who are studying in the VI and VII Standards of secondary schools, will be eligible for admission. The scheme will be voluntary and the course for individual cadets will last for a year which will include regular instruction for about three days a week and a camp of about 10 days.

It is proposed to have 100 instructors drawn from the ranks of secondary school teachers. The actual selection of teacher-instructors will soon be undertaken and they will be trained with the co-operation of the Military authorities.

It is expected that Instructors Training Classes will start early in March and the Cadet Corps will start in June 1948.

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Political Sufferers in U.P.

The U.P. Government have decided to grant pensions or lump sums to political sufferers who have been permanently disabled or have devoted the best part of their life to national service and struggle for independence and have now become old and infirm.

In the alternative the Provincial Government may, in deserving cases, give lump sum grants as gratuities to enable such persons to take up some industry.

The widows whose bread-winners lost their life in the national service and struggle for independence will also be eligible to receive pensions. Small recurring grants for limited periods may also be given to minor children of such persons till they are married or have attained majority. Other facilities and concessions are under consideration.

Government fully recognize that the invaluable services and sacrifices of political sufferers cannot be easily evaluated, much less compensated in material terms. With the limited resources of the Provincial Government it is not possible to meet all legitimate expectations.

But in view of the fact that it is the sacred duty of every nation to do something as a token of its gratitude to the heroes and martyrs of the struggle for freedom after it has been achieved, it is indispensible that certain concrete steps should be taken for them. Government will consider each case on its merits and before making any grant will ascertain and verify the details of the applicant's services and sacrifices for the country.

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Bihar Governor Exhorts Officials

Inaugurating the Bihar Institution of Engineers, His Excellency the Governor said in the course of his speach:

"The people at large can understand the significance of national freedom only when officials become in the true sense of the word "sevaks' of the people. Let then the flame of patriotism which burns so brightly within you inspire you to function as true sevakas and merge your identity with the poorest of the land."

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Rural Development in C.P.

The Central Provinces Rural Development Board considered recently the overall plan of Rural Development prepared by a Sub-Committee.

The Plan is an outline for organizing Agriculture and Village Industries, Sanitation, Health, Housing and Communications, Village Education and Village Culture to build ultimately just and democratic self-sufficient regional republic with a strong co-ordinating centre.

U.P. drive against Black-marketing

The U.P. Legislative Council passed the first reading of the U.P. Prevention of Black-marketing (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1947.

Mr. Chandra Bhan Gupta, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, replying to the debate said that action under the provisions of the Bill would not be taken on the basis of mere Police reports. He said: "No person would be detained unless Government were satisfied through public and official sources that he was indulging in black-market activities." He added: "We have no intention of crushing the civil liberties of the people or using the Bill as a weapon against our political opponents.

"Mr. Gupta referred to criticisms of the food policy of the Provincial Government and said that those who supported Mahatma Gandhi's views on decontrol should also act on the principles of self-sufficiency advocated by him."

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Training in Agriculture in U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces have sanctioned a scheme for training young men in modern methods of agriculture. The intention is not to attract them to Government services. It aims at turning out complete farmers with working knowledge of modern methods in agriculture, better farming, use of manures, fertilizers, selection of seeds, etc. After the period of training is over they are expected to develop their own farms. The Government have under consideration the question of aiding them when they start working their own farms, after completing the training. No candidate will be admitted for training unless the family possesses at least 20 bighas of land. The candidate during the period of training will have to work like a farmer in order to gain practical experience. Each student will receive wages for his labour according to the quality and quantity of the work turned out in addition to a stipend of Rs. 5 per month.

* * *

Bombay's drive against illiteracy

The Government of Bombay have constituted regional Adult Education Committees for each of the regions of Maharastra, Gujarat and Karnataka to intensify the work of adult education. The main function of the commitees will be to organize adult education classes and training classes for teachers and workers. The Committee will also prepare suitable literature and publish it, frame syllabuses and methods of eradication of illiteracy, carry on propaganda by means of exhibitions, lectures, etc. Each committee will advise the Government regarding the organization of adult education in the region with which it is concerned. The committees will also assist the Government in determining the expenditure of the amount provided for adult literacy and education work. The committees are empowered to appoint sub-committees as may be necessary. The village libraries and reading rooms also form a part of the Adult Education Scheme. Each will be entitled to get a grant of Rs. 18 per annum or two-thirds of the actual cost of the books and journals purchased during the year.

* * *

No exploitation of forest workers in Bombay

It is reported that the Government of Bombay have started co-operative coupes of labourers with a view to ending the exploitation of forest workers. This innovation is characterized as a far reaching socio-economic experiment. It is intended to eliminate the contractor to whom the coupe was used to be given hitherto for cutting wood, making charcoal, etc. The workers were paid only a wage and all the profits went to the contractors. The formation of these co-operative coupes has been warmly welcomed by the forest workers. The elimination of the middle-man and the prospect of all the profits going to themselves have produced a tonic effect on these hitherto unfortunate people.

The Minister for Forests, however, sounded a note of caution that the experiment was new and hence, it would call for all their energies and resourcefulness. The societies, he said, have a great future if in addition to their making arrangements for the cutting down of wood and its sale, they also catered to the needs of the labourers' social life.

* * *

Bombay gesture to Harijans

The local bodies in Bombay have been asked by the Government to take into consideration the peculiar circumstances of the Harijan sweepers in their

employ and make every effort to improve their conditions of service. The Government have also directed that the local bodies while recruiting peons, clerks, etc., should give preference to Harijans as far as possible.

* * *

Home guards in C.P.

According to a C.P. report the official inauguration of the Home Guards Training Centre was performed by the Hon'ble Premier. The Prime Minister said: "you are no mercinary soldiers of war. Time was when we had fought non-violent battle with the foreign rulers but times have changed and you have to guard our hearth and home and your role is different from that of the military and the Police. Home Guards is the second line of defence as the Defence Minister has said. After receiving training here you will return to your place and spread the knowledge and discipline you have acquired here in training the villagers and town people among whom you will have the opportunity to move." He also exhorted them to do their best in the service of the country.

* * *

The C.P. Government Anti-corruption drive

The C.P. Government have set up District and Subdivisional Anti-Corruption Committees throughout the Province. The District Magistrate is the Convenor and the District Superintendent of Police is the Secretary of the District Committee and there are 5 or 6 non-official members. The functions of the Committee will be—

(1) to assist the Anti-Corruption Committee and its work;

(2) to bring to the notice of the local authorities any matter relating to corruption; and

(3) to forward complaints received by their members either to local heads or to the Secretary of the Anti-Corruption Committee.

* * *

Refugee Fund in C.P.

The C.P. Government have opened a fund for the rehabilitation of the refugees. Contributions to the fund are to be sent either to the Deputy Commissioner of the District or to the Honorary Secretary, Central Refugee Relief Committee. Announcing the opening of this fund, His Excellency the Governor appealed to every citizen of the Province for donations for the help of the refugees who were forced by circumstances to leave their hearth and home. Various problems have arisen in regard to their rehabilitation. The monthly expenditure on accoun of the refugees was considerable. Besides the Central Refugee Committee there are also a number of unofficial committees running several camps and all these also needed money. In the nature of things the Government cannot alone shoulder the financial responsibility. Private charity has also to come into the picture. Hence the opening of the Fund which is named Shri Pakwasa Refugee Relief Fund.

* * *

Subsidies for tube-wells in U.P.

A scheme for tube-well installation on a subsidised basis is understood to have been drawn up by the Provincial Government. Under this scheme, the Government have sanctioned the grant to farmers of loans, ree of interest, under Land Improvement Loans Act to the extent of one-third o the cost of constructing tube-wells in the farms. Loans are not to be given out in cash but in the form of materials, such as, pumping plant and tube-wells.

The loans are repayable within ten years and the period of repayment can be extended subject to the special permission of the district magistrates.

* * *

Social Service Scheme in U.P.

The first training camp under the social service scheme initiated by U.P. Government will be held from January 15, 1948 in the Fyzabad aerodrome which has been acquired from the Government of India.

1,500 graduates are expected to join this camp which will last for ten months. During this period the board lodging and other incidental charges of the camp will be borne by the Government.

The U.P. Government have also decided that with effect from January 2nd, 1949, no graduate who does not possess a diploma in social service will be eligible for employment under Government or local bodies or any institution aided by Government. He will not be eligible for admission in any technical or training institution directly under or recognized by Government. The scheme aims at giving the[illegible] graduates an all round training un[illegible]r the supervis[illegible]n of an off[illegible]r of [illegible]he Education [illegible]epartment w[illegible]o se[illegible]d in the [illegible] with distincti[illegible].

Anti-corruption committee for Greater Bombay

As in the districts, the Government of Bombay has directed the formation of an Anti-Corruption Committee for Greater Bombay also. The Committee will consist of two official and three non-official members and its jurisdiction will extend also to the 39 villages in the Bombay Suburban District (Revenue).

The Collector of Bombay and Bombay Suburban District (who will be the Chairman of the Committee) and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Anti-Corruption Branch, Bombay, will be the official members of the Committee. The non-official members will be appointed by the Government in consultation with Deputy Commissioner of Police, Anti-Corruption Branch, who will submit his proposals through the Chairman.

The non-official members will be appointed for a period of two years but they will be eligible for reappointment.

* * *

Assurance to Labourers in Bombay

Speaking on the occasion of the celebration of the first Labour Day the Bombay Labour Minister said that they all had to bend their energies to the establishment of a social order based on the principles of respect for human personality, of liberty and equality and of the unfettered enjoyment of amenities of life. Whatever may be its name, they were to follow the ideals of constructive socialism, under Gandhiji's guidance, in order to secure the highest good of each and every individual.

Proceeding, the Labour Minister warned the workers against the disruptive elements scrambling for power. Mr. Nanda assured the workers that their interests were receiving the Government's close attention.

* * *

Technical Consultation for proposed steel units

With reference to the proposal for the installation of one or more steel plants capable of producing a million tons of steel per year, it is understood that the first step will be to obtain the services either from the United Kingdom or the United States of America of expert technical consultants to make a rapid survey and to report to the Government of India on the location, design and construction of the plant.

A small committee, which will include representatives of the main steel

producers, will, it is learnt, be appointed to draw up the terms of reference to the consultations.

* * *

U.P's Rs. 15 Crore Dairy Plan

A five-year dairy development plan to raise milk production by nearly ten per cent in U.P. will, be shortly considered by the U.P. Government. The plan, drawn up by Dr. Zal R. Kothawala, Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India, is estimated to cost Rs. 14,83,00,000. U.P.'s share will be only Rs. 9,41,00,000, the rest to be borne by the Central Government.

At present U.P. produces annually 1,126 lakh maunds of milk, which works out at 7·35 ounces per head per day. The target set by the plan is an extra yield of 108·02 lakh maunds, and even if it is achieved, the province will still be left with a gap of 214·98 lakh maunds on the assumption that the minimum nutritional requirement is 1 lb. per head per day.

It is estimated that a team of 1,505 technicians will be needed to put his plan through. The plan envisages the establishment of 22 milk-cum-bull production farms; 500 small-holder milk production farms; 25 colonies for cattle dislodged from cities; 20 seed bull centres 100 insemination yards for the purpose of artificial insemination; 27 co-operative milk unions; and 186 co-operative rural creameries.

Other proposals include the setting up of centres for the cross-breeding of cows and the reservation of 800,000 acres of land for the production of green fodder and silage.

* * *

Education Facilites for Rural Masses

Mr. Sampurnanand, Minister for Education, U.P., inaugurating the Government Industrial Education Centre at a village, 40 miles from here, said that efforts were being made to develop education in such a manner that village students might not be compelled to go to the cities for receiving training.

The Education Minister emphasised the need of education in rural U.P. and said that it was high time for providing facilities for technical training in village centres to lay the foundation of a sound village economy. There was no reason, he added, why cultural life of the villages should in anyway be backward to the life in cities.

The speaker continuing said that Government were determined to develop educational facilities for rural masses in a way that none of them might be handicapped in comparison to the students in the cities. He felt that students found it considerably difficult to migrate seasonally to the cities in order to acquire education. As such, he declared, all efforts were being made to provide students of the rural areas all educational facilities at home.

Referring to technical education, Mr. Sampurnanand said that despite the presence of expert village handicraftsmen, such education was essential for village-folk in the interests of efficiency. He declared that in spite of the fact that 'our Government had limited resources we would pool them together for developing the talents of our masses.'

* * *

Bombay scheme to make Workers Literate

The proposal to constitute four Workers' Literacy Boards, one each for the Districts of Ahmedabad, Sholapur, East and West Khandesh and Dharwar, for the purpose of implementing the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme of making industrial workers literate has been approved. Each Board will consist of 11 members.

The functions of the Workers' Literacy Boards will include :—

(i) formulation and execution of detailed programmes for bringing about universal literacy among workers in perennial factories in the district; (ii) encouraging private associations, social workers, students, etc., to conduct adult literacy classes for industrial workers in the district; (iii) enlisting the co-operation of the employers with a view to running classes on the premises of the factories during suitable hours; (iv) entertainment of teaching and other subordinate staff subject to the Government's approval, for conducting the literacy classes; (v) giving wide publicity to the literacy activity by propaganda for removal of illiteracy and other forms of ignorance amoug industrial workers, e.g., arranging variety entertainment programmes, exhibition of films, organizing literacy weeks, etc., and (vi) encouragement and supervision of publication of suitable literature for spreading literacy among workers.

To enable the Literacy Boards to perform their functions, an aggregate sum of Rs. 1,81,000 is placed at the disposal of the Director of Labour Welfare for allocation to the Boards during the current year.

Prohibition—a national gain

"Prohibition may well prove the means whereby light and happiness may be brought into the dark and miserable lives of thousands of our unfortunate brethren," said Mr. L. M. Patil, Excise Minister, Bombay, recently.

Continuing he said "I need not remind you that the Government is determined to make a thorough success of Prohibition, for it vitally affects the people's lives. This programme is not a party programme. It has the backing of every section of our society and it is bound to bring happiness and illumination to the dark, miserable homes of thousands of our brethren. It will be a national gain and therefore every citizen has to play his or her part to make it successful."

Referring to the economic aspect of the scheme, Mr. Patil stated: "The scheme will not only uplift our brethren fallen into an evil habit but ensure a constant income from very useful and remunerative supplementary occupation to thousands of tappers who otherwise would have been thrown out of employment on account of Prohibition."

Replying to the oft-repeated criticism levelled against the Government for having given precedence to the Prohibition plan over more urgent needs of the people, such as food, housing and clothing, the Excise Minister said "Now is the opportune time to embark upon an all-round reconstruction programme now that we have got our long-cherished opportunity of doing something really good and lasting to our people after attainment of our freedom. Prohibition occupies a most important place in our Reconstruction plan and hence even running the risk of losing a substantial part of our revenues, we have seriously taken up this work, the success of which will not only bring happiness to thousands of families but ensure for them the right use of their hard earned money. This is a tremendous national gain offsetting our revenue losses."

* * *

U.P. Municipalities Bill

Adult franchise, abolition of separate electorates and the present system of nominations, better representation of minority communities, direct election of president, regulating the imposition of taxes, are the main features of the U.P. Municipalities (Amendment) Bill to be introduced at the next session of the U.P. Legislature.

For the first time in the history of local bodies in India municipal boards will be authorized to raise loans in the open market. The sanction of the Government will have to be obtained prior to raising the loan.

The bill also proposes to do away with the control of commissioners of divisions over municipal boards at the discretion of the Provincial Government.

Other changes include empowering municipal boards to encourage physical culture, promote trade and industry, undertake housing and town-planning schemes, establish welfare centres for the benefit of municipal servants, regulate the construction of cinema houses and alignment of streets.

* * *

Concession to backward classes in U.P.

All Backward Class students admitted to the hostels attached to Government Colleges including the Medical and Agricultural Colleges will be exempted from the payment of room rent, subject to the usual conditions of satisfactory progress and good behaviour.

The Director of Public Instruction has also been requested to issue necessary instructions to all Principals of Government Colleges that while allotting rooms in the hostels preference should be given to the Backward Class students who apply for admission and satisfy the college authorities that they can meet the messing charges of the college hostel.

* * *

Grant of relief to Government Servants in Western Pakistan

It has now been decided that Heads of Departments may, in deserving cases, grant special advances up to three months' salary, subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,500, to enable Government servants to provide themselves with personal equipment essential for their duties as Government servants.

These advances will be interest-free and will be recoverable in not more than 36 monthly instalments.

This concession will also be admissible to Provincial Government servants who have come as refugees from areas in Western Pakistan and have subsequently been employed under the Central Government.

* * *

Bombay Minister on cattle wealth

Speaking at the prize distribution ceremony of the All-India Regional Cattle-show in Bombay, Mr. Patil, Reconstruction Minister exhorted his audience to develop and augment their real wealth, viz., land, cattle, sheep, poultry, etc., with the fullest co-operation of the Agricultural Department. He also advised them to see that adequate and proper fodder was provided for them and sanitary conditions such as clean water, general cleanliness in and around stables and sheds, and freedom from disease ensured in as large a measure as possible. No plans, however perfect, could succeed if no Co-operation from the people came forth, he said, and appealed to them to offer their fullest help and assistance to the Government to promote all-round prosperity in the Province.

* * *

Co-operation in Agriculture

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the Adiwasi Seva Mandal, Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier, Bombay, said: "I need not emphasize the advantages of co-operative farming in a Province like ours where the yield from the soil is very low. The causes of such low yield as given by Captain Mehite in his recent report on co-operative farming are (1) deterioration of soil, (2) inadequate or irregular rainfall, (3) unsatisfactory systems of cropping, (4) lack of good seeds, (5) poor livestock and other equipment, (6) scanty use of manure, (7) subdivision or fragmentation of holdings, (8) want of adequate credit facilities, (9) primitive system of marketing and (10) lack of initiative and enterprise on the part of cultivators. All these causes will, to a great extent, be removed if we succeed in organizing our agriculture on the co-operative basis in future. Amongst people who are so ignorant, so backward and so individualistic as the Adiwasis, social service organizations and social workers will have to carry on patient, ceaseless and sustained work for years together before a strong co-operative movement is built up. The salvation of the Adiwasi agriculturist lies in co-operative farming. I, therefore, appeal to social workers to take up this work and bury themselves in remote villages and jungles where they will find fruitful scope for their talents and abilities.

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Irrigation schemes in Bihar

The Irrigation Department of the Government of Bihar have under contemplation two alternative schemes for the optimum utilization of the waters of the Panchane river for irrigation purposes. The area which is thus likely to be benefited would be in the neighbourhood of 40 thousand acres.

* * *

Educational Expansion in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has appointed a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials to conduct a survey of the Dahanu, Umbergaon and Palghar talukas of Thana district and to prepare a programme of educational expansion in these areas especially for the Adiwasis and other Backward Classes. Mr. D. N. Wandrekar, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Backward Classes, is the Chairman of the Committee.

* * *

Prohibition in Bombay

The confident hope that the Prohibition Programme of the Government of Bombay would be made a complete success with the active co-operation of officials and the public at large was voiced by Mr. L. M. Patil, Minister for Excise and Chairman of the Bombay City Prohibition Committee, presiding over a meeting of the Committee recently.

It was urged at the meeting that now that the police had a different role to play as servants of the people, greater co-operation would be forthcoming from them in the matter of enforcing Prohibition. The average citizen must also realize his civic responsibility in helping his fellowmen who had fallen a prey to the drink habit and the State by assisting in reducing the evil. He could do so by becoming a member of one of the various committees proposed to be established in the street, moholla, ward, village, taluka, etc.

It was proposed that Prohibition Guards on an honorary basis and consisting of non-officials should be organized to assist the administration.

The Excise Minister laid great stress on the positive side of Prohibition and said that counter-attractions in the form of welfare centres should be organized, so that an average man could be enabled to spend his evenings or holidays having clean and reasonably-priced light refreshments, music, recreation, simple plays, indoor games, short films of educative value and such other pastimes.

Problems and Solutions

The Magnitude of the Refugee Problem

Few people have realized the extent and ramification of the refugee problem. It is indubitably one of the major problems facing the Provincial Governments in general and the Central Government in particular. Imagine millions of people were all on a sudden uprooted from their hearths and homes and sent adrift. Their evacuation to places of safety and their restoration to normal life constitute a problem of staggering magnitude. It is perhaps not widely known to what extent, the Governments' energies were taxed in the evacuation of millions of refugees from the northern regions of this Country.

Over eight million refugees crossed the Indo-Pakistan border in both directions up to 21st November 1947.

Of this, a little over four million consisted of non-Muslims who were brought over to India from West Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan.

During the same period, over four million Muslims were evacuated to Pakistan from East Punjab and Delhi.

On an average, more than half a lakh of non-Muslims were brought to safety every day by using all available means of transport—Trains, motor lorries, aircraft, ships and on foot.

Foot columns provided the quickest means of evacuating the largest number of refugees. Fleeing from towns and villages close to the Indo-Pakistan border, non-Muslims began to enter India in large numbers in numerous small disorganized parties towards the end of August and the early part of September. Later, when the Indian army began to lend a helping hand, huge foot convoys, each 30,000 to 40,000 strong, embarked upon a 150-mile march from the fertile colonies of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts. Thus in 42 days (September 18 to October 29), 24 non-Muslim foot columns, 849,000 strong, with hundreds of bullock carts and heads of cattle crossed the border into India. Movement of these columns raised problems of maddening complexity. When food failed, the Government of India had to drop cooked food as well as foodgrains and sugar by R.I.A.F. planes which flew from Amritsar and Delhi to Jaranwala, Lyallpur, Churkhana, Dhabhansinghwala, Balloki headworks and Bhai Pheru. Drugs, vaccines and doctors were rushed by air as well as motor transport. A field ambulance unit was sent to Raiwind to inoculate refugees before they crossed the border. The columns suffered at the hand of not only man but also nature. Exposure and devastating floods thinned their ranks. Nevertheless, the determined caravan moved on.

Refugee Trains

Next to foot columns, refugee trains carried the largest number of refugees. About 673 refugee trains, moving over 23 lakhs of refugees inside India and across the border, were run alone between August 27 and November 6, 1947. Of these 1,362,000 were non-Muslims and 939,000 Muslims. It is reported that 1,193,000 non-Muslims crossed into India by train up to November 21. Of these, 14,000 came from Sind.

Nearly four lakhs of non-Muslims and over two lakhs of Muslim refugees have been evacuated by motor transport under military protective escort, the Military Evacuation Organization of India alone using 1,200 military and civilian vehicles for this purpose. Of the 12 motor transport companies, each of 150 vehicles, which are being raised for Military Evacuation organization (India), the first three companies left Delhi early this month. Nearly 1,000 additional trucks—600 provided by the United Province Government and a few hundred by private organizations—have been pressed into service. Drivers for the vehicles have come from the Provinces and States. Motor transport is used primarily for collecting non-Muslims stranded in villages and other small pockets and also for bringing them to railheads.

In one month alone, 1,000,000 gallons of petrol were used in the East Punjab Area, mostly by the Military Evacuation Organization, India.

Evacuation by Air

Up to the end of November 21, over 32,000 refugees were flown in both directions by scheduled or chartered aircraft, over 21,000 of them being non-Muslims. It was towards the end of August that Government decided to arrange facilities for transport of refugees by air from different points in Pakistan. Accordingly ten aircraft belonging to various Indian Transport Companies were mobilized. On an average, six to seven aircraft operated daily from Delhi to transport refugees from Sargodha, Lyallpur, Multan and Rawalpindi. In addition scheduled air services between Delhi and Karachi, Quetta, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar were intensified.

Ships from Karachi

Evacuation of non-Muslims from Chitral, Bannu and other difficult areas, which are not accessible by rail or air, has now been referred to the Defence Ministry who will bring refugees to the nearest railhead or airport. Refugees from Dera Ghazi Khan will be brought to Muzaffargarh for evacuation to India. From Sind, evacuation of non-Muslims is proceeding by sea as well as rail. In addition to the regular Persian Gulf Line steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company, which pick up evacuees from Karachi on their way to Bombay, nine steamers have been chartered by the Government of India, but clearance from Karachi is restricted to only 2,000 a day, as the port authorities have pleaded inability to handle more. By November 21, nearly 133,000 non-Muslim evacuees had been cleared from Sind by steamer and country craft, destinations being Bombay, Okha, Bedi, Navlakhi, Kundla and Cutch Mandvi. From Hyderabad (Sind), two trains now run daily carrying non-Muslim refugees to Jodhpur.

Mere evacuation of population does not end the problem. Their economic rehabilitation also needs attention to. The Government have not failed to tackle this aspect of the problem.

Employment Exchanges have been opened in Delhi and Simla, as well as in East Punjab and West United Provinces and a special office has been established in Bombay. A large number of refugees have already been registered by the Exchanges and many have secured employment. A Transfer Bureau has been opened by the Ministry of Home

Affairs and all Ministries have been instructed that vacancies should not be filled until it has been ascertained that suitable candidates cannot be supplied by the Transfer Bureau. Up to the middle of November, over 8,000 refugees had secured employment under the Government of India and in certain provinces. Provincial Governments have been asked to relax rules which restrict recruitment by Government to persons who are domiciled in the Province.

Training of semi-skilled and skilled persons is of the utmost importance in any programme of rehabilitation. Over 4,000 refugees will be immediately trained in the Labour Ministry's Centre for Ex-Servicemen in a number of technical and vocational trades. Possibilities of absorbing a large number of skilled workers in railway workshops after a short period of training are being examined. Centres are being opened in the various refugee camps where refugees will be engaged on remunerative occupations like spinning and weaving, hosiery and knitting, button making, etc. Schemes for voluntary training of juveniles are being prepared. Large stocks of goods available in the Disposals Directorate have been frozen with the idea of utilizing them for rehabilitation of refugees, the stocks covering equipment for 27 different trades.

The Government have sanctioned an advance of a sum up to Rs. 300 to an individual in order to facilitate resettlement. These loans are meant for traders, businessmen, artisans and persons who wish to set up their own workshops or cottage industries. The scheme will be introduced almost immediately in the Centrally administered areas. The Central Government will be prepared to render financial assistance to any province or administration which decides to adopt a similar scheme with such modification as it may consider necessary.

Spinning and Weaving

The East Punjab Government have decided to organize fifty cotton spinning and weaving centres and five wool spinning centres for a period of six months to enable refugees to supplement their income from land, incidentally helping in the production of cloth and blankets.

A scheme for granting loans to students and trainees abroad, whose guardians are no longer in a position to finance them, has been sanctioned, and an extension of this scheme to students in India is under consideration.

For assistance to big industry and business, proposals for a rehabilitation and financial corporation are under consideration in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

In order to provide facilities to refugees coming from Pakistan, who were unable to transfer their Savings Banks Accounts to Post offices in India, it has been decided to allow withdrawals from Postal Savings Banks in respect of investments made prior to August 14, under certain conditions. Cash and other certificates issued from Post offices in Pakistan and tendered for transfer at Indian Post offices will be treated as formally transferred, necessary intimation containing full particulars of these certificates being sent to the Pakistan Government. Holders will be allowed to encash these certificates up to a limit of Rs. 500 on proper identification, payments in excess of the amount being only made on execution of a bond of indemnity. Holders of insurance policies who were paying their premia in Pakistan have been allowed to credit their premia in Post offices in India.

The payment of advances to Central Government civil pensioners who have come as refugees from Pakistan has been authorized. Indian military pensioners have also been permitted to draw pensions subject to certain conditions.

Claims of refugees in respect of their movable and immovable property left behind or lost in Pakistan are being registered. Provincial governments and States have also been requested to make similar arrangements regarding measures for registration of claims. A Custodian of Evacuees' Property assisted by advisory committees consisting of non-officials has been appointed. An advisory committee consisting of representatives of various interests and communities and classes of refugees has been set up to advise the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation on all matters of policy.

Education

In order to enable refugee students to resume their studies at the stages at which they were interrupted, the Provincial Governments were addressed to afford facilities to them. The Ministry of Education undertook to provide all facilities to the East Punjab Government to enable them to open a camp college in Delhi.

The Delhi University have offered the utmost co-operation by admitting as many displaced students as possible in their colleges and by making arrangements to start, on behalf of the East Punjab University, the Honours School and M.Sc. classes for East Punjab students in Physics and Chemistry.

Educational facilities to refugee school children have been provided by opening two High Schools in Delhi. It is understood that additional accommodation is being provided in educational institutions in Bombay and United Provinces for the admission of refugee children.

The Universities in the Provinces and certain technical institutions have been addressed by the Ministry of Education for providing facilities for admission to refugee students in technical subjects. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture have made arrangements for the rehabilitation of refugee medical and agricultural students respectively.

The question of providing employment to refugee teachers and professors who were employed in various educational institutions in Pakistan and who have suddenly lost their means of livelihood is receiving full attention. A register of displaced teachers who desire to be resettled is being maintained, and full particulars regarding their academic qualifications, experience, scale of pay, etc., are being kept. Thanks to the co-operation of local bodies and private managements of schools in Delhi, it has been possible to give employment to 270 refugee teachers.

Women and Children

As a result of appeals for public co-operation in the rehabilitation of unattached women and children, offers are pouring in from the Indian people. A special camp has been set up for destitute women at Kurukshetra. Arrangements are also being made to transfer a technical institute from East Punjab to Delhi, where these women will be trained in different vocations and professions. The question of giving advances to widows and others is under active consideration.

The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has opened a Fact Finding Branch to collect authentic information about atrocities committed on non-Muslims in Pakistan. The Ministry also provides in conjunction with the Indian Red Cross Society, Enquiries and Searching Service with the special object of tracing and recovering abducted women and non-Muslims kidnapped or forcibly converted. This office has already handled over 7,000 enquiries and lists containing about 3,000 names

have been forwarded to the Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan and his Deputies in Peshawar and Lahore and to the Punjab branch of the Indian Red Cross Society and the Government's Liaison Officers in West Punjab. For the recovery of abducted women Government depend at present on the active assistance of military authorities, district authorities, women social workers and prominent persons of the localities concerned. A machinery for this purpose is already in operation but further proposals have been made to the Pakistan Government for the expansion of such machinery.

Nearly two million refugees have been resettled in East Punjab and Indian States. Of these over 1,500,000 have been resettled on more than two million acres of land in East Punjab which has adopted a plan for the resettlement of another 550,000 refugees by internal dispersal from refugee camps, particularly in the Ambala Division. Nearly 223,000 refugees have been settled in various States, including 123,000 in Patiala and 50,000 in Jodhpur.

Another 15,000 have secured employment through Employment Exchanges and the Government of India's Transfer Bureau. The average size of a family being five persons, this means resettlement of 75,000 refugees.

Further plans for the resettlement of refugees are indicated in the latest reports received from the Provinces and States. Patiala State proposes to resettle another 75,000 refugees or so, including five to ten per cent of urban refugees. A scheme has been drawn up in Holkar State for resettlement of agriculturist refugees and artisans in the Rampura, Bhanpura and Nemawar districts, the State authorities sanctioning a special advance of Rs. 5,00,000 for the purpose. Alwar State, which has already settled 8,000 refugees, proposes to resettle further 50,000 in villages where agricultural lands and houses will be provided. In Partabgarh State rehabilitation plans include the allotment of ten bighas of land per family with no land revenue for five years and only half the assessment for the next five years, as well as taccavi loans for digging wells and buying bullocks. The State has also sanctioned a loan of Rs. 5,00,000 for building a colony of 1,100 plots for refugees.

Efforts are being made by the Ministry of Agriculture to import 220 tractors by March 1948 for a project which aims at mechanical cultivation of land in East Punjab for the next kharif season. At the instance of the Government of India oil companies are arranging to supply sufficient quantities of high speed diesel oil to the East Punjab Government for the tractors already supplied. About 200,000 acres of fallow land could be secured and made available to agriculturist refugees for rehabilitation in East, if tubewell irrigation could be arranged, and this matter is at present under consideration by the Government of India and the Government of the East Punjab. Meanwhile a consignment of 1,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia is on its way from Bombay to various destinations in East Punjab for distribution amongst farmers as fertilizer.

The absorption of urban refugees in trade, commerce and industry is under way. The question of affording facilities to refugee firms dealing in fruit preservation is under consideration, though licences are being issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to selected fruit preservers some of whom have already established their activities here. These firms are being issued sugar permits after inspection on the basis of the normal quota of sugar which they used in Pakistan. Field Officers of the Ministry of Industry and Supply have been deputed to Calcutta to investigate the capacity and other details relating to factories which have recently been put up there by refugees from West Punjab. On receipt of their reports supply of raw materials required by them will be arranged.

The Ministry of Railways have arranged for the speedy despatch of cotton and wool from the purchasing centres like Hansi, Fazilka, Rewari, etc., to the manufacturing stations, e.g., Rampur, Kanpur, Delhi, Indore, etc., where the raw material is used for making blankets and quilts.

In the United Provinces Government have carried out an occupational census for planned rehabilitation. A large number of refugees seeking paid employment are getting absorbed in the life of the Province. Special industrial schemes are being considered for the large number of petty traders. It is also proposed that facilities previously provided to ex-soldiers for the purpose of training in technical and vocational trades for resettlement on land and for production work at the workshops of vocational training centres should be extended to refugees.

Mysore State is willing to absorb about 5,000 refugees and provide them work on daily wages at the site of the reservoir under construction in the north-western part of the State.

Plans for rehabilitation in Baroda State include employment in State services of professional man like doctors, engineers, professors and skilled and semi-skilled workers, mechanics and artisans; allotment of residential plots, reclamation of jungle areas on a limited scale, and encouragement to industrialists and businessmen who wish to start their own industries.

Holkar State has sanctioned the construction of two roads at a cost of Rs. 7,50,000 to provide immediate work to refugees. In the city of Indore a list has been prepared of the various trades and professions to which refugees belong, and attempts are being made to absorb them in the trades concerned. A proposal for developing sites for new colonies farther away from the city is under consideration.

In Jodhpur State 25,000 refugees have been settled in the town of Jodhpur, a number of them being employed in State Public Works Department, private industrial concerns, as well as business.

Almost all the gaps created by Muslim evacuee businessmen in Faridkot State have been filled by non-Muslim refugees. About 18,000 Muslim evacuees from Faridkot and Kotkapura have already been replaced by 15,617 non-Muslim refugees. About 300 teachers and artisans have been absorbed in the State Services and Works. The State proposes to employ another 2,000 semi-skilled and unskilled refugee labourers by restarting existing industries. It is also proposed to build two new grain-markets at Jolewala and Romana Albebsingh to accommodate one thousand businessmen and small traders.

In Partapgarh State suitable employment will be offered to technicians in State service and opportunities for a share in a cloth and grain syndicate, as well as in mineral, industrial and forest occupations.

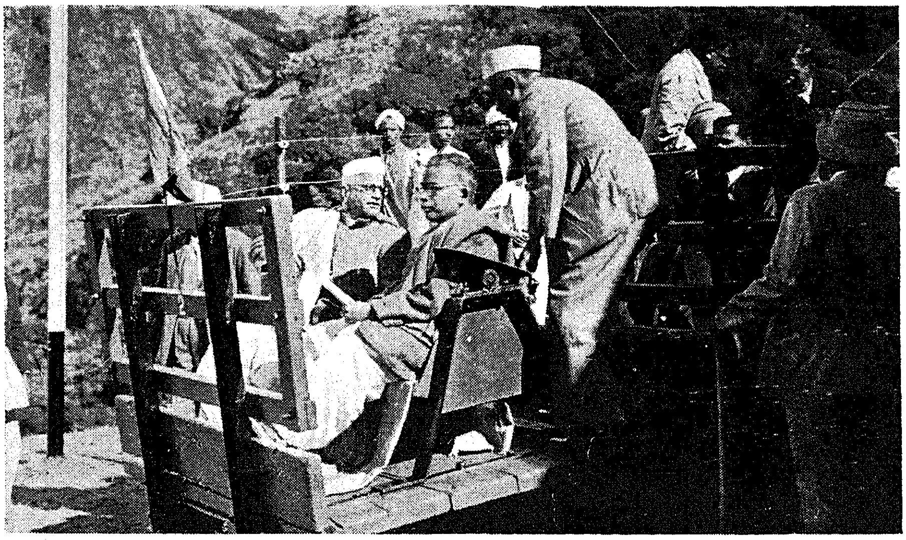
Supply of quilts, blankets, garments and cloth to refugees in camps is gathering momentum. Up to December 14 791,910 quilts and 266,703 blankets were despatched to East Punjab, Delhi and Kurukshetra. Other despatches to these centres include 954,507 shirts, shorts, great coats and the like and 108,595 yards of cloth.

There are more than 160 refugee camps all over the country providing accommodation to 1,250,000 refugees. In East Punjab alone 721,851 refugees are being looked after in 85 camps. Then there are 53,000 refugees in

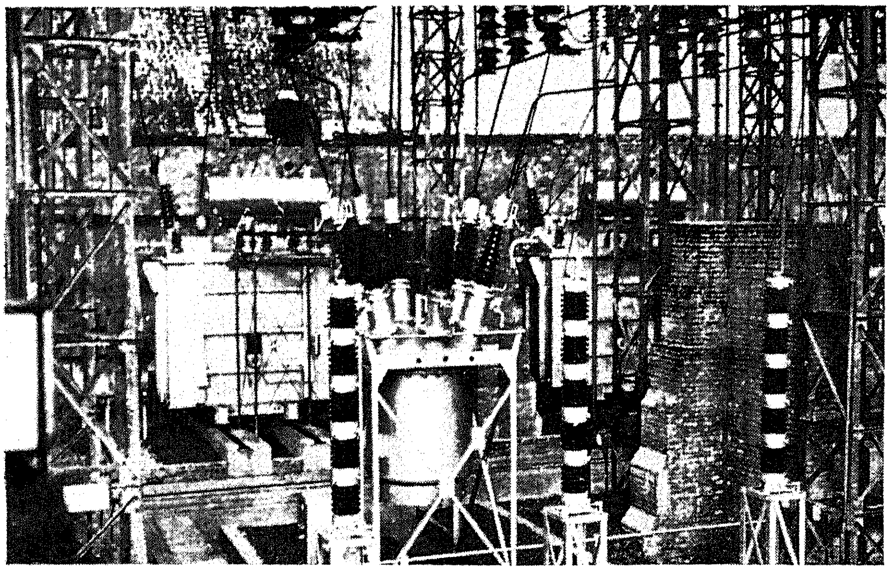
Dominion Minister in Madras

Hon'ble Sri N. V. Gadgil, Dominion Minister in charge of Works, Mines and Power

The Ministers in the inclined haulage track descending the Pykara slopes

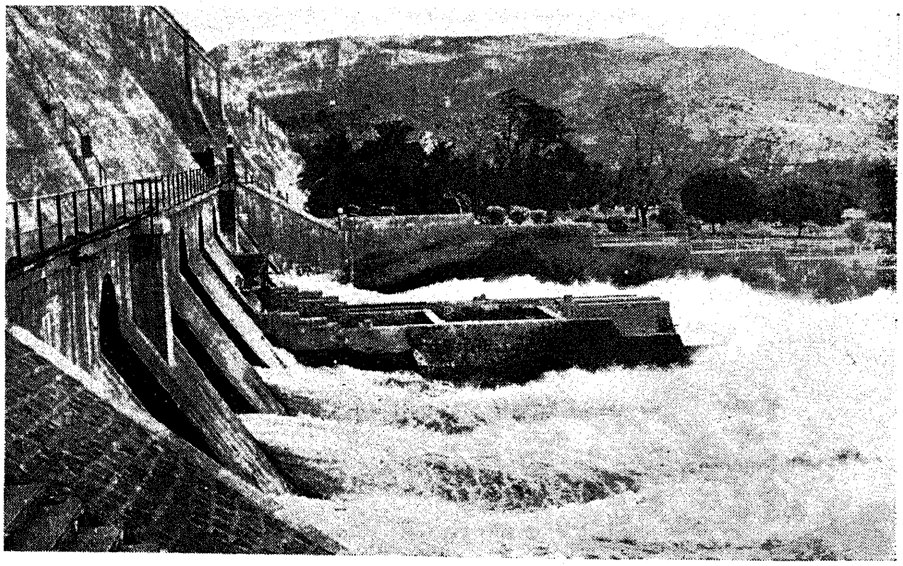


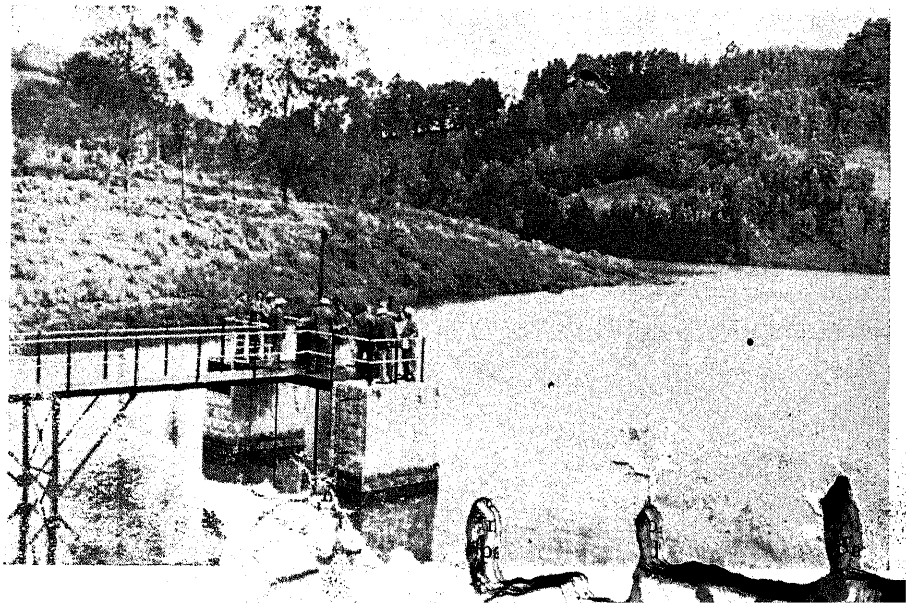
The Ministerial party—Sri N. Krishnamurti, Superintending Engineer, explaining the plans



Mettur Power House—Transformer Yard

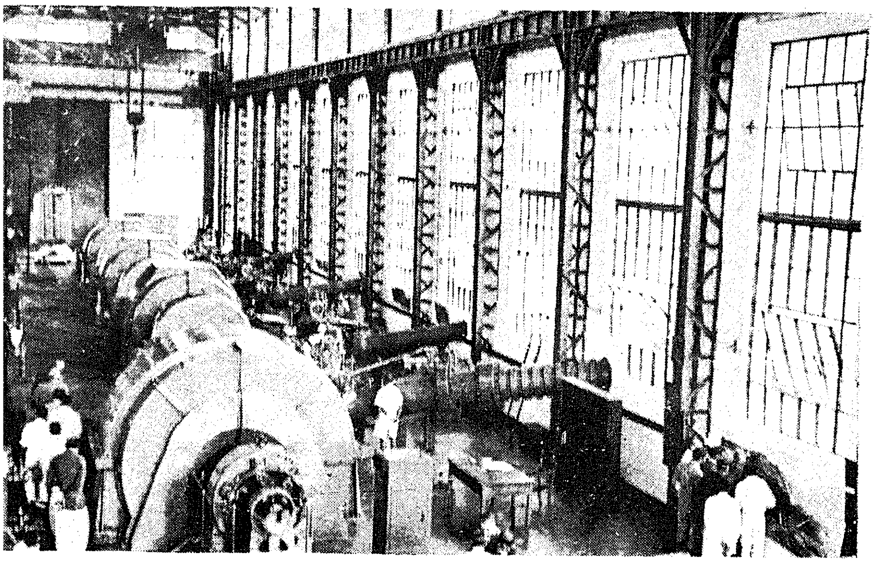
Mettur Dam—High level irrigation sluices

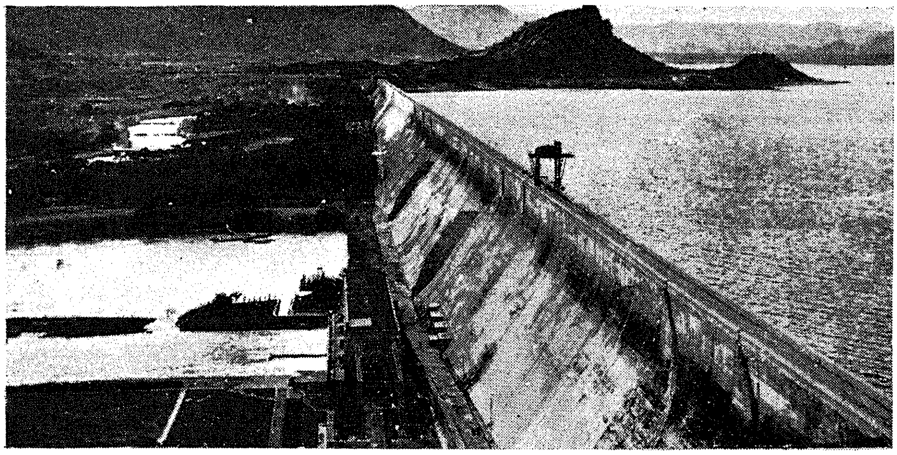




Pykara Forebay Intake

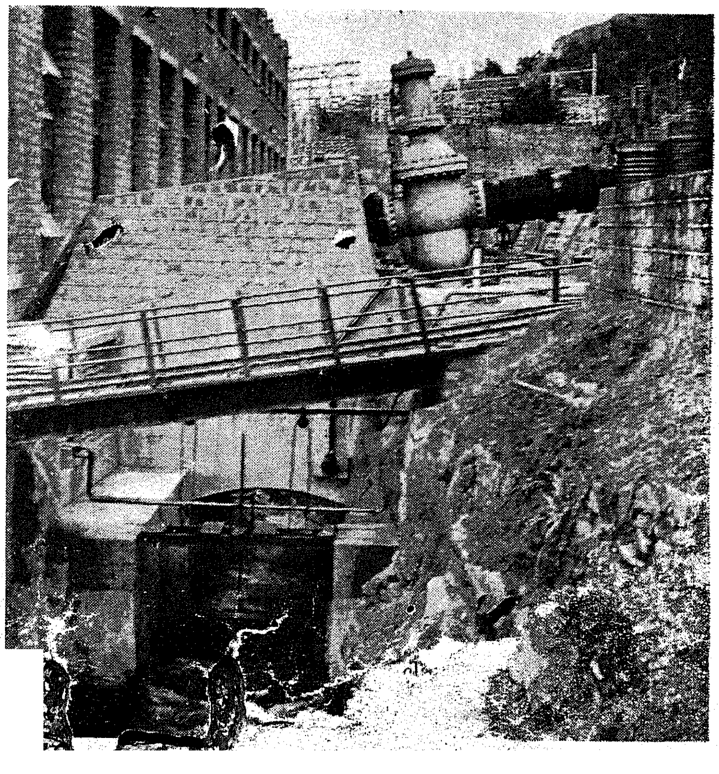
Pykara Power House—Interior view

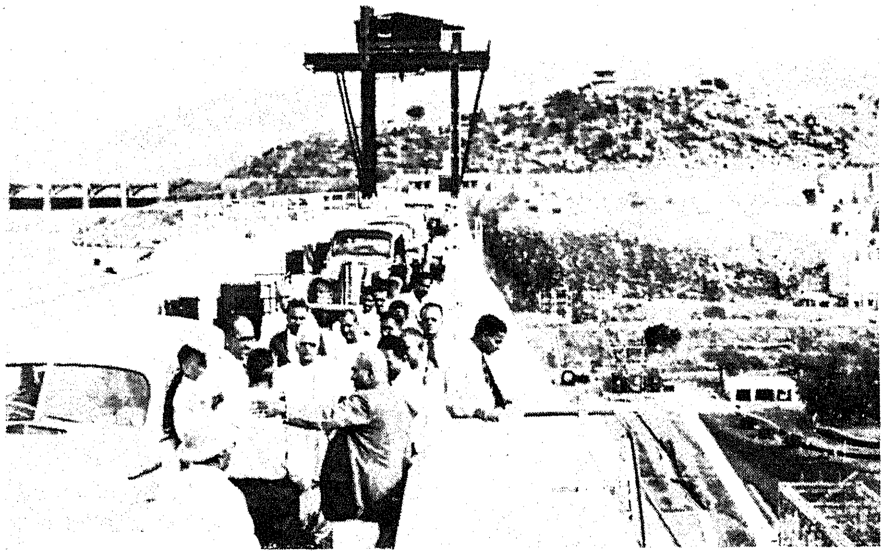




Mettur Dam, Reservoir and Power House—General view

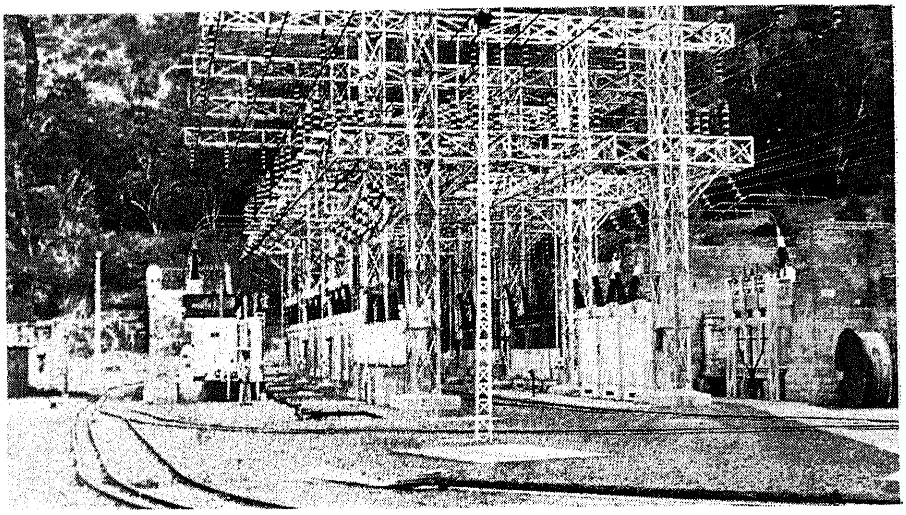
Pykara high pressure penstock entering Power House. Tailrace also in view

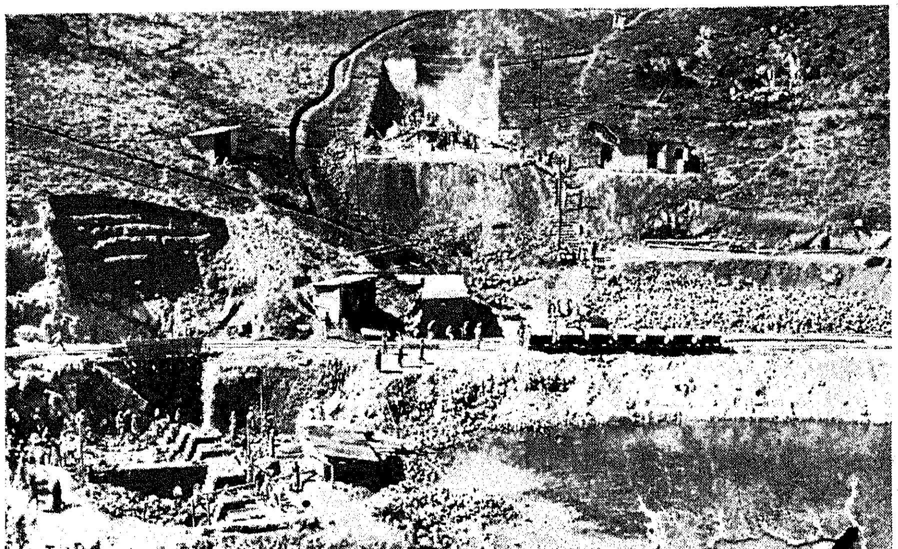




The Ministerial party on top of Mettur Dam. Mr. Venkatachari, Chief Engineer (Irrigation) explaining details

Pykara Transformer Yard





Pykara Dam—Excavation work in progress

camps in the States of Faridkot, Udaipur, Indore, Gwalior, Alwar, Rewa, Kotah and Rutlam. Over 13,000 refugees have found shelter in 32 camps in the Bombay Presidency, 30,000 refugees in about 31 camps in the United Provinces, 600 refugees in three camps in Madras and 1,500 refugees in the Central Provinces. About 15,000 refugees are in camps in Delhi.

In almost all these camps food, clothing, medical and sanitary facilities are provided, quite a number of them being run by philanthropic organisations. In the United Provinces all the refugees in camps are lodged in buildings with proper shelter and are provided with a special quota of cloth at nine yards per refugee, where necessary at Government expense. Schools have been opened for children and the United Provinces Government are distributing 50,000 blankets and quilts and 20,000 lb. of wool in addition to considerable quantities already distributed by private organisations.

Daily expenditure on camps runs into several hundred thousands of rupees. During 1947–48 Government of India have made a budget provision of Rs. 10,00,00,000 for relief.

The total number of non-Muslim refugees evacuated up to December 14 from West Punjab, N.W.F.P., Sind and Baluchistan came to 4,362,000. Organised evacuation on a large scale was completed by the Military Evacuation Organisation, India, in the first week of December, a week earlier than the date fixed. Pocket clearance and rescue of abducted women and forcibly converted persons are now in progress.

The Madras Co-operative House Construction Society

The shortage of housing accommodation in urban areas in general and in Madras City in particular has assumed serious proportions and Government are leaving no stone unturned to tide over the situation. In a matter like the provision of houses, Government alone cannot do everything. Private enterprise has to play a big part. However the Government are doing their best within their inevitable limitations. The Madras Co-operative House Building Society is a practical application of the co-operative principle to the solution of the housing problem. The following article gives more details.

The increase in population in recent years without a corresponding increase in the number of houses has given rise to the problem of Housing Shortage. The problem has been aggravated by the conditions created by the war, viz., acute dearth of building materials, unprecedented rise in the cost of labour and an abnormal increase in the cost of house-sites and building materials. The problem is very keenly felt in urban and industrial areas than in rural areas. In the City of Madras, where the population during the quinquennium ending 1946, increased by 4·58 lakhs with an increase of only 1,600 new houses, the situation called for immediate action on the part of the Government, and thanks to the initiative and efforts of the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Housing and Mr. J. C. Ryan, Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The Madras Co-operative House Construction Society was formed in May 1947.

The objects of the Society are to acquire and lay-out lands making suitable provision not only for house-sites but also for amenities like roads, parks, playgrounds, schools, markets, etc., to construct houses and to give them to its members on hire-purchase system. Members are required to take shares in the society equal to the value of the sites chosen by them and to pay 1/5 of the cost of construction at the time of occupation. The remaining 4/5 are to be paid by the members in equated annual instalments over a period of twenty years. A member may pay off the entire value of the house at any time, but the ownership of the house will be transferred to him only on the expiry of 10 years. This provision has been made with a view to create a safeguard against speculation.

The Society began regular work only in July 1947, when applications were called for with an initial deposit of one-fourth of the estimated cost of the site. Three areas were chosen for house construction, viz., Adyar, Mylapore and Ayyanavaram and applications were received in respect of all the areas. Of the applications received, 662 have been admitted and 250 are on the waiting list. The share capital to the credit of the members now stands at Rs. 22,31,200.

Of the three areas chosen, the Society was able to purchase by private negotiation from the Archibishop of Madras a large piece of land in Adyar measuring 131 acres, at a cost of Rs. 16,00,000. This purchase by private negotiation has cut out the delay usually involved in acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act. A "Lay-out" Sub-committee formed from among the Board of Directors and consisting in addition, of the Town-Planning Expert, the Chief Engineer of the Corporation, the Chairman of the City Improvement Trust and the Deputy Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, carefully considered the several lay-outs got prepared in respect of this area and ultimately adopted the one prepared by Sri Rao Sahib K. K. Nambiar, Chief Engineer of the Madras Corporation. This lay-out provides for parks, playground, school, child-welfare centre, swimming pool, canteen and other social amenities without in the least sacrificing the requirements of economy, health, sanitation and convenience of the prospective residents. It is modelled on the lines of a modern neighbourhood unit which is the most popular form of development adopted by the Town-planners in western countries to-day. It is a self-contained unit, with all the communal amenities, such as, paved roads, side walks, underground sewerage, surface drainage, water-supply with an overhead tank for decentralized storage to ensure uninterrupted supply at uniform pressure, electric lights, shopping centres, school, dispensary, post office, bus stand, etc. An area of 23 acres has been set apart for roads, which total up a length of 23,655 feet, 2 acres for shops and markets, 7 acres for public buildings, 4 acres for the green verge abutting the service road and 77 acres for house-sites. Three hundred and thirty-two house-sites have been provided in the lay-out, 165 A class of 30 cents each, 89 B class of 20 cents each and 78 C class of 10 cents each. Including the value of the areas set apart for common purposes like roads, parks, etc., and taking into account the estimated cost of the area marked for markets, schools, etc., expected to be realized later on by sale, the price of the house-sites have been fixed at Rs. 5,700, Rs. 3,800 and Rs. 2,000 for A, B and C class respectively and at Rs. 6,300 and Rs. 4,200 for sites of the A and B class respectively, classed as preferential as those face either the park or the main roads. An area of about 18 acres on

the northern side of the existing approach road to the St. Patrick's Orphanage, is mostly low-lying and slopes towards the margin of the Adyar river. This is proposed to be converted into a beautiful park with lawns and flower beds.

Of the other two areas chosen one comprises about 240 acres in Mylapore between Brodies Road and Pughs Road on the east and west and St. Mary's Road and Greenways Road on the north and south. The other comprises about 30 acres by the side of the Mental Hospital, Aynavaram. Apart from these two areas, another one comprising 90 acres has been chosen adjoining the side already purchased at Adyar, with a view to absorb the large number of applications in respect of that area, which are still pending. Applications for acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act have been sent to Government in the case of all these three areas and the Government have asked the Collector to take action under the emergency provisions of the Act. Meanwhile, a proposal is under the active consideration of the society, to apply to the Government for the appointment of a Special Land Acquisition staff, with a view to expedite proceedings.

So far as the designs of houses are concerned, it is proposed to have three classes of houses, A class costing about Rs. 15,000, B about Rs. 10,000 and C about Rs. 5,000 (all exclusive of the site value). There is provision in the by-laws of the Society for constructing other classes of houses also, costing more than the estimates mentioned above and it is likely that some members may go in for these types. The designs under each class have been prepared by Mr. Jambulinga Naicker, Consulting Architect to the Government of Madras on the lines formulated by the Designs Committee formed from among the members of the Board and consisting in addition, of representatives of A, B and C class applicants, coopted for the purpose. Several sittings of the Designs Committee were held before the designs were finally approved. Three designs under each of the classes, A, B and C, have been finalized apart from special designs under A class. The designs are under print and they will be sent to the members shortly. Option will be given to the members to choose any of the three designs under each class.

The Government have been pleased to place at the disposal of the society, the services of the Deputy Registrar free of cost, to work as Secretary. The Society has taken an Executive Engineer of the Public Works department on foreign service to be in charge of construction work. He has taken charge by the middle of this month. Speedy arrangements are being made to procure building materials like, bricks, timber, iron, cement, etc. Government have reserved 7,000 tons of timber of the Forest department for Co-operative Housing Schemes and a special quota of iron and steel at the rate of 1,000 tons per quarter is expected from the Government of India. The requirements of this Society can be easily met out of these allotments.

The Society is fortunate to get the active co-operation of all the departments and officers concerned with the scheme, the Corporation, the Public Works department, the department of Co-operation, Forests, Industries and Commerce, etc. It is hoped that actual construction will start in January and may be finished by September 1948.

FIGHT MALNUTRITION WITH SHARK LIVER OIL

Science has forged a weapon to fight malnutrition and disease from the much dreaded Shark that swims the seas. In the livers of Sharks has been located by Scientists a rich store-house of two valuable vitamins essential for human health; for **SHARK LIVER OIL** is a concentrated store of Vitamins A and D, without which healthy life is impossible.

THE GOVERNMENT OIL FACTORY has done pioneer work in the production of medicinal Shark Liver Oils in India and has successfully marketed **M.G.B. SHARK LIVER OIL,** standardised to contain 1,500 international units of Vitamin A and 100 international units of Vitamin D per gramme and confirming to British Pharmacopeia requirements.

M.G.B. SHARK LIVER OIL is 2 to 3 times more potent, and a superior substitute for cod liver oil in building up resistance against cold and infection, to correct nutritional deficiencies and build up and maintain health and efficiency. It is invaluable to child and adult for robust life in these days of poor food and malnutrition.

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Where Madras Leads

Government's Far-flung Irrigation Plans

Much light was thrown on the potentialities of the various irrigation schemes of the Madras Government during the recent visit of the Hon'ble Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Minister for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India. Opportunity was taken during the visit to explain the various irrigation and other projects of the Government to the Minister and to indicate the directions in which central help would be needed in the matter. There was a conference at the Banqueting Hall on the 21st December 1947 which was attended among others by the Chief Engineer to the Government and other officers as well as Ministers. Besides Mr. Gadgil, Mr. G. K. Gokhale, Secretary to the Government of India, Works, Mines and Power and Mr. A. N. Khosla, Chairman of the Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, also attended the conference.

It is well known now that the Provincial Government have a number of projects in hand to expand the irrigation facilities in the province. This expansion is all the more urgent at this juncture when the food position is not what it ought to be. This province is deficit in foodgrains to the extent of two million tons of rice and this figure may rise up to 2½ millions in 1951 taking into account a normal rate in the growth of population. Self-sufficiency in food is a central fact in economic independence and the Provincial Government have therefore mapped out a heavy irrigation programme as part of their plan to make this province self-sufficient. The Tungabhadra project which is now under execution is expected to bring ·3 million acres under the plough and the Ramapadasagar project 2·2 million acres. Besides these, there are three other major projects, namely, the Kistna-Pennar project, the Gandikota project and the Lower Bhavani project. All these projects combined are calculated to bring an extent of 3·6 million acres of land under cultivation. The Kistna-Pennar project alone will bring 2·5 million acres of land under cultivation. The total cost of all the schemes envisaged works out on a rough estimate to 130 crores. The figure does not include the cost of the Tungabhadra and the Ramapadasagar projects. If the cost of the latter two projects is also included the total outlay would amount roughly to 280 crores for expenditure in the next ten years.

The details of the Tungabhadra project are now generally known. It is expected to be completed in 1952. The height of the dam will be 126 feet above the deepest foundation and the reservoir would hold 113,000 cubic feet of water and provide irrigation facilities for dry crops principally in portions of Kurnool and Bellary districts. Seven thousand K.W. of firm hydro-electric power and 14,000 K.W. of seasonal power would be generated in the project. As regards Ramapadasagar dam, it is to be constructed at Polavaram. The chief constructional difficulty in connexion with this project relates to the excavation and dewatering of the exceptionally deep foundation trench to an extent of 200 feet below the bed level at the deepest section. This difficulty is not one which has been experienced anywhere else in the world. However, expert opinion considers the project feasible. Its reservoir will be the second largest in the whole world. The project would bring into cultivation ·9 million acres of new land and will provide for raising a second crop in about 1·4 million acres of land in the new and old irrigation areas. Thus the total area of irrigation under the project will be 2·2 million acres. About 200,000 K.W. of firm hydro-electric power will be generated. The canals will provide navigation facilities right from the Bay of Bengal to the interior of Hyderabad and Central Provinces.

A similar go-ahead policy has also been chalked out in respect of Government's power development. It was disclosed during the conference that the Government have a five-year plan in this matter. The plan contemplates—

(1) The completion of the Machkund project which is to yield 50,000 kilowatts of power in the initial stage ;

(2) doubling the capacity of the existing thermal power stations at Vizagapatam and Bezwada ;

(3) completion of a new thermal station at Nellore with an output of 5,000 kilowatts of power ;

(4) completion of the Ceded Districts Grid and energising it with power bought in bulk from Mysore till such time when power is made available from the Tungabhadra project ;

(5) expansion to the Pykara Hy[illegible]-electric plant to give an addi[illegible] 25,000 kilowat[illegible] of power ;

[illegible]) completi[illegible] the Moyar p[illegible] [illegible] kilowatts utilizing the tail waters from Pykara ;

(7) expansion of the Papanasam Hydro-electric station to give an output of 28,000 kilowatts of power ;

(8) modernising and expanding the Madras Power Station to give additional power of 15,000 kilowatts immediately and an ultimate yield of 60,000 kilowatts of energy ; and

(9) linking Madras to the Mettur system.

At the present time electrical energy is made available in about 1,000 villages in the province. The demand for electric power from rural areas is great and is of such a magnitude as cannot be adequately met by the Electricity Department, until the supply position of materials improves. Nevertheless, rural electrification schemes are in hand for another 1,500 villages. Efforts have also to be made for the supply of cheap electrical power ultimately to all the villages in the province.

Mr. Khosla as well as Mr. Gadgil also spoke at the conference. The former pleaded for integrated development of irrigation and suggested that there was a very strong case for utilizing 90 per cent of water in both Godavari and Kistna rivers which at present is running to waste. Incidentally it may be mentioned that excess water for utilization is available only in Godavari and Kistna rivers and extension of irrigation facilities can be provided only in tracts watered by these rivers. Mr. Khosla also referred to the electrical power development arising out of the irrigation projects, and said that there could be no difficulty inasmuch as rural demand for electric power was likely to be great. That was the experience in other countries notably Canada and Sweden, especially in the former where already all the rural areas were supplied with electric power. Cottage industries can also be supplied with electric power. As regards the role of machinery, he was of the opinion that machinery should be employed only where manual labour was not available. In India there is plenty of manual labour and it is desirable that machinery is not used to the extent of the displacement of manual labour. Mr. Gadgil in his address expressed satisfaction of the progress, Madras has been making in the field of irrigation development

Production drive

The economic situation now is as grave, if not graver, as during the war and it is obvious that increased production can be achieved only through a sustained and planned effort as during the war.

Almost since the end of the war, but more noticeably from August 1946, there has been a steady decline in industrial production with the result that considerable installed capacity is now lying idle. For example, while the peak production of cotton textiles in the period before 1944 was 4,826 million yards per year, the production estimated for 1947 is only 3,800 million yards: Of steel, though there is an installed capacity of 1,264,000 tons per year and as much as 1,160,000 tons was actually produced in 1943, production has declined up to 875,000 tons, as estimated for 1947. Similarly the monthly capacity for cement in India is 173,000 tons, but the actual production estimated for the present year is 112,000 tons per month; and while the annual capacity for paper production is 110,000 tons, only 86,000 tons would be produced in 1947, according to estimates.

The list of industries in which such a fall in production is so pronounced is a long one. But in not less than thirty items the problem of underproduction is capable of being tackled and overcome immediately if proper measures are taken forthwith. The following is the list of these industries, in which immediate action can be taken to step up production: steel, cotton textiles, cement, drugs (tinctures and galenicals), sulphuric acid, superphosphates, caustic soda, alcohol, soap, glass, pottery, refractories, enamelware, abrasives, paper and boards, leather, plywood, diesel engines, iron castings, bicycles, machine tools, metals, electric lamps, dry cells, motorcar batteries, electric motors, transformers, electric fans, cables and wires, insulators, electrolytic black copper and belting.

Causes of Decline

The fall in production below installed capacity in all these cases is broadly ascribable to three causes: (1) Transport difficulties, (2) shortage of raw materials both indigenous and imported and (3) labour unrest.

Though the railways in India are now moving more goods than before the last war, there is yet a considerable gap between demand and supply and the present level of movement is actually less than that attained during the war. The short-fall in movement has reacted alike on the clearance of finished products and on the supply of raw materials to industry. Steel, cement and paper are three among the main industries suffering from this lack of adequate transport facilities, while chief among the materials affected is coal. For while the railways are themselves taking about 50 per cent of all the coal being moved, they are moving less coal now than they did in 1945 or early 1946, while the demand from industry has increased by 4 to 5 million tons per year. If the industries selected for immediate plan should be enabled to work up to capacity, the supply of coal would have to be increased by about 150,000 tons per month over the level that has been prevailing recently.

The problems of transport difficulties need mainly a long-term solution, but meanwhile, it is hoped, with the co-operation of labour, rationalization of available facilities and diversion of traffic through road, river and sea, a considerable improvement is still possible.

As for shortage of raw materials, though its incidence is very extensive, the main commodities in acute short supply impeding industrial expansion in the country are, besides coal, steel and cement. The demand for steel is well over 2 million tons per annum, but availablity is less than 1 million tons and indigenous capacity only about $1\frac{1}{4}$ million tons. Similarly while the requirements of cement are between 200,000 and 250,000 tons per month, installed capacity is only 173,000 tons. Shortages in these commodities will persist even after full production of existing capacity is reached.

In a different category are raw materials such as caustic soda, soda ash and non-ferrous metals, for whose supply India is dependent mostly on imports, but of which there is a world shortage. As measures to increase their imports can succeed only to a limited extent there is a clear need for utilizing their available supplies in a rational manner so as to yield maximum production. For example, in soap industry there are three classes of factories, the first having an annual capacity of 64,000 tons, the second 96,000 tons and the third 90,000 tons. The main bottleneck in the industry is caustic soda of which only 12,000 tons can be spared for soap manufacture against the quota annual demand of 28,000 tons. The [illegible] alloc[illegible] causti[illegible] which is made more or less on a *pro rata* basis, has resulted in the production of soap to an extent of 85,000 tons, which quantity can easily be increased if the factories of the higher classes receive preference in allocation. Similar revision of allocation may step up glass production, in whcih case the main shortage is in soda ash, 22,500 tons being available against a demand of 30,000 tons.

Another category of shortages consists of imported components, some of which are in world short supply. The main problem regarding the rest is, however, that existing monetary ceilings and delays in licensing have created difficulties, which must be immediately rectified. It is, however, pointed out in this connexion that certain machinery and raw materials may be immediately available in surplus stocks held by the Disposals Organization.

Labour can Avert Present Crisis

In some ways, labour unrest has been the biggest cause of the decline in production, and though a supreme industrial effort was made possible during the war by the willing cooperation of labour, its post-war activities have had an adverse effect on industry. The effect has been most marked on the railways and on steel and textile production, to name the most important; but practically no industry has escaped. But surely what labour gave to the war effort, it could and should give more freely now, when the crisis of the country's economic affairs is as grave, if not worse than the war emergency.

South Indian Railway Traffic Statistics

The details of public train miles as compared with November 1946 are as follows:—

Public Train Miles.	*November* 1946.	*November* 1947.
Coaching ..	675,034	855,895
Goods	251,410	256,810
Total ..	926,444	1,112,705

Details of traffic both coaching and goods carried during the month of November 1947, as compared with the corresponding month of last year and the previous month are given below.

The increase in coaching earnings compared to the previous year is due to the introduction of additional trains, increase in fares and the Krithigai

(Continued on page 36)

Topics of the day

The Industries Conference

The rapid industrialization of India is one of the major problems facing the Central Government and despite numerous pre-occupations, the Government are moving quickly in the matter. The recent Industries Conference was convened primarily to pool ideas in industrial matters. It was attended by experts from all over India and its deliberations have thrown a flood of light on the many aspects of the industrial problem of the country.

A comprehensive survey of the present industrial situation in the Indian Dominion was made by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, India's Minister of Industry and Supply, in the course of his opening speech at the Industries Conference. The speech also contained certain concrete proposals for the immediate expansion and long-term planning of Indian industries; and it concluded with an appeal to all the parties in the country to combine together in a vigorous co-operative effort which would make possible a rapid transition "from our preponderating colonial economy of raw materials produced by exploited masses to a national economy of industrial goods produced in abundance by skilled workers fully enjoying the fruits of their labour."

The Conference whose object, according to the Minister, was not merely to exchange views on the larger problems of industrial policy and planning, but to assist the Government of India in arriving at decisions for an immediate increase in production and industrial development on a short-term, was attended by about 190 delegates.

In the course of his speech Dr. S. P. Mookerji observed "This Government is pledged to the proposition that the freedom we have gained will be used for the benefit of all, and accordingly it has been embodied in our constitution that this nation shall live and prosper as a Socialist Republic. It will be in the common interest of all to ensure that the transition from the present economic freedom to that Ideal should be as smooth and speedy as possible, and at every stage of our progress we shall utilize all available capital resources, manpower and talent in business, administration and technology to the fullest extent possible for increasing the wealth and efficiency of our country."

"We have collected plenty of materials and reports," he said, "and the time is now fully ripe for action on lines best suited to our national advancement."

Then referring to the recent decline in production which had begun since the end of the war but became more noticeable from August 1946, Dr. Mookerji said, "A review of the recent fall in industrial production is indeed most disturbing. In cotton textiles, for example, our production has fallen from round about, 4,800 million yards in 1945—the production during the first two years of control—to 3,800 million yards. The causes of this decline are well known. In steel, the fall has been from 1,180,000 tons per year to 875,000 tons. It is the same with cement, the monthly production of which has dropped from 160,000 tons to 112,000 tons. These examples are typical of the general fall in production right through the whole field of industry. Indeed, the economic situation now is graver than during the last war. In every sense of the term we are now in an industrial crisis of a type we have never seen before.

Why production fell

"Side by side with this unfortunate state of affairs is a worsening of the inflationary situation in the country. The gap between spendable income which is growing and the volume of goods which is dwindling is widening everyday. It is well known that our inflation is very largely due to the increase of currency in the country caused by the issue of rupee money by the Reserve Bank of India against sterling deposits in London. Although inflation due to this cause has ended and in fact currency circulation has been falling slightly, prices have shown a progressive increase, bringing in its train an enhancement of wages and salaries. This vicious circle of fall in production and rise in prices can only be broken by increasing our productive capacity through a sustained and planned effort. We have examined a number of our most important industries with this objective. Of the many causes responsible for a fall in production, the most important have been unsatisfactory relations between labour and industry, a shortage of raw materials and defects in their distribution, inadequacy of transport to meet present needs, difficulty in obtaining capital goods and constructional materials to instal them and supply and exchange limitation on the import of full requirements of industry. The remedy for these defects will be the first major problem of Government."

Dr. Mookerji then pointed out the importance of promoting stable relations between labour and management, in particular by calling for a truce in lockouts and strikes until the present crisis was over. He indicated that this subject would be further discussed on December 18 and that the Hon'ble the Labour Minister was bestowing special attention on this matter. "This is the vital part of the work of our Conference," he said, "on which the ultimate success of our efforts depends."

Speaking on the short-term plans, Dr. Mookerji said: "Government recognize that they have a special responsibility to discharge if these schemes are to materalize. For example, the capacity of rail transport should be increased to meet prospective demands of movement of constructional materials, fuel, raw materials and finished products; hydro-electric projects and ancillary thermal stations to supply power to industry should be speedily executed; the rapid growth of the coal industry on rational lines has to be ensured and for that purpose the recommendations of the Indian Coalfields' Committee have to be implemented soon. New steel plants have to be erected and brought into operation; and in the meantime, every effort should be made to import the country's essential requirements in steel and iron and other raw materials. The administrative machinery of Government at the Centre must also work in complete harmony with Provincial Governments and the States, with industry, labour and other interests, so as to minimize delay and deadlocks and maximize progress and efficiency."

Dr. Mookerji then referred to the decision taken by the Government of India to set up under the auspices of the State two new steel plants each of 500,000 tons capacity with possibility of expansion to a million tons. At the same time, measures

would also be considered to utilize the spare capacity of our Ordnance Factories, remodelled and expanded in wartime for meeting the needs of industry. It had been decided already to utilize the Mathematical Instruments Office in Calcutta for the production of scientific apparatus and the expansion of the resources of the Alipore Test House was under active consideration. Dr. Mookerji referred to the importance of quality control movement, and to the question of revising the existing patent law with a view to promoting exploitation of patents taken out by Indian nationals. He added that funds on a generous scale had been placed at the disposal of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for conducting research with a view to improving the efficiency of technological processes, and the quality of raw materials and finished products.

Industrial equipment and personnel

He continued, "Most of our industrial equipment will for some years have to come from abroad. Some of this will no doubt help towards the progressive liquidation of India's sterling resources built up at much human and material cost during the war. But plant has also to be imported from countries like the U.S.A. with whom our balance of trade is in consequence likely to be adverse for many years to come. Last May, the heavy liquidation of our foreign currency resources constrained us to reimpose the control over imports which we had relaxed a few months earlier in pursuance of Government's general policy of progressive decontrol of commodities at the appropriate moment. India is of course no exception in the matter of currency difficulties which affect most of the countries of the world. Like them we also have to look either to the export trade or to foreign loans or to regulated investment of foreign capital in industrial enterprise to remedy difficulties regarding balance of payments. My colleague in charge of the Commerce Ministry in opening the proceedings of the Export Advisory Council in New Delhi last month emphasized that the export policy of Government would be conditioned by two main factors: the need for conserving and increasing India's resources of foreign exchange and the consolidation of her position in the export markets of the world. The need for an export drive, therefore, needs no emphasis.

"One of the most important problems facing industry is the paucity of competent technical personnel. During the past three years considerable sums of public money have been spent in Overseas training of Indian Scholars. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. C. Roy, has examined this scheme and recommended steps for making such training more effective. The wastage in this respect has been enormous. There is also a great demand for the services of competent foreign technical personnel to improve the efficiency of Indian industries. The establishment of scientific and technical liaison offices abroad for the recruitment of such technologists and for making better arrangements for training of Indian students in industry is under consideration. But these are mere palliatives. India should not hesitate to establish the most up-to-date technological institutions, and, if necessary, invite experts of high standing from every part of the world for affording equal opportunity to Indians of all classes to acquire the highest technical knowledge and skill in their own country. It pays better to engage a foreign expert on £ 2,000 a year to train a dozen talented young Indians in the country itself than to send the same dozen overseas for similar training at a cost of £8,000 a year. We are also taking steps for maintaining a register of technically qualified men whom industry may absorb. The success of this scheme will depend on the response we receive from industry."

Progress of State enterprise

Dr. Mookerji discussed the question of State management at some length in the course of which he observed: "It has often been argued that State management is far less efficient than private management, and hence it should be avoided. This is rather an argument really in favour of the State adopting the methods of private management and not for giving up industrial undertakings altogether. In the advanced countries of the West, owner-managers are rapidly yielding place to salaried Managing Directors who are experts in business administration and industrial production. Management of State-owned industries by statutory corporations may offer the correct solution.

"In a statement of Industrial Policy which was issued by Government in 1945, a list was given of some industries of national importance which might be owned and operated by the State if adequate private capital was not forthcoming. The list included iron and steel, chemicals and dyes, automobiles and tractors, electro-chemical and non-ferrous metal industries. The Railways, the Ordnance Factories, the Hindustan Aircraft, Limited, and a number of public utilities are already State-owned and operated. The Fertilizer Factory in course of construction in Bihar and the large projects of power development are going to be executed as State enterprises. The National Planning Committee whose reports are now being gradually published, has recommended that all defence and key industries should be owned and operated by the State. The Advisory Planning Board which met at the end of last year, recommended that, apart from Defence Industries, and any industry or branch thereof which it might be found desirable to start as a State enterprise through the reluctance of private capital to undertake it, the nationalization of the following should be considered:—

Coal, Mineral Oils, Iron and Steel, Motor, Air and River transport.

"Leaving aside any theoretical discussion on the issues of State-ownership versus private enterprise, Central planning for the basically important industries is essential from the point of view of conservation of limited capital resources and foreign exchange, avoiding wasteful competition and securing regional development which would advance the standard of living in the country as a whole and ensure a proper dispersal of industries throughout India. Central planning necessarily involves certain controls, such as regulation of prices and profits and the wages and conditions of labour. A tentative list of the industries which appear suitable for Central Planning will no doubt be considered by you. It is for you to recommend to Government which of them should be State-owned, partially State-owned or owned entirely by private enterprise. We have also to consider the nature and extent of the participation of foreign capital and management which will be allowed in our country by the Central Government on conditions to be determined by them in the interests of our economic advancement and safety."

"India is a land of villages," he continued, and assured the Conference that Government would attach the greatest importance to the development of cottage and small-scale industries to ensure a balanced economy. He indicated that though the development of these industries must remain

the responsibility of the Provincial and State Governments, Central Government should also make continuous efforts in order to make them ancillary to large-scale industries.

Special mission to go abroad

Inviting suggestions from the Conference regarding the machinery that Government must set up for advising them on some of the vital matters dealing with the immediate short-term and long-term programmes, Dr. Mookerji concluded: "I am most anxious that our long-term plans for industrial development will be ready in a precise and concrete form by April 1948, so that we may be in a position to send out a special Mission to visit foreign countries with a view quickly to obtaining assistance in regard to plant and machinery and technical personnel. Meanwhile every one of us, Government, Industry, Labour and the public should do every thing possible to speed up production to the maximum of our capacity and not allow any party or other extraneous consideration to sabotage this great and united effort. The efforts of those who are represented here will and must be harnessed with the programme of expansion, envisaged by the Ministries of Food, Agriculture and Works, Mines and Power, thus leading to a planned and progressive reconstruction of India's economic structure."

Sir Visveswarayya's Suggestions

Speaking at the Conference Sir M. Visveswarayya said: "I hope the proceedings of this Conference will develop into practical proposals which would be equally sound and satisfactory, and that whatever proposals are approved, they would be brought into effect with promptness, which is characteristics of western countries. I had an opportunity of meeting some principal manufacturers in America a few months ago, and in one of the meetings that we had with the National American Manufacturers, the President said, "We in this country follow this policy—

'Small cost to consumers, high wages to workers, and fair return for owners of capital.'

These are the principles we are guided by and we recommend the same to you. We are sure that if you follow that, you will reproduce America.

"I am not so optimistic about our own country, but one impression which our wanderings through many of the industries made upon us was that there is very good prospect for the next fifteen or twenty years in this country for industries, and every effort should be made to develop them on western lines, not on the old lines which we have been accustomed to for generations. Industries were retarded before the war, industries were kept out of the country during the war, and since the war ended, we are involved in all sorts of political troubles, but I hope that these troubles would end soon and an era of constructive effort will begin. One thing that I want to say is that many of our friends in the mufassal and in the provinces think that we must develop small industries. It is no use bothering about big ones. I must say that small industries have not brought any country prominence or power or prosperity. It is the heavy industries alone that have done good to many countries and heavy industries have given a country an industrial character. For instance, in America there are about ten industries—a list has been given in one of my publications which have brought America to the front—and brought her prosperity and a rise in her standard of living. Canada has eight industries, and in England also a dozen industries were utilized which brought her in the past power and prosperity. We should do the same thing."

Importance of heavy industries

"We should give special importance to heavy industries so far as money power and military power are concerned. They are indispensable. Industrial development should mean development of heavy industries. In America, for instance, the smaller industries were all treated as part of agriculture. Agriculture is very good to give people food and subsistence requirements. But smaller industries have not made any country rich or prosperous. That much I should say.

"The next point is that there are some industries like steel, machine tools and machinery, and electric power, which are very urgently needed in the country, and as regards these things we should not proceed by calculating on the old lines as to whether it would pay immediately 5 per cent or 4 per cent or whether it would not yield any revenue. Speed is more important in such industries than loss of money. That is one of the things we should remember.

"The third point is that in western countries it is by risk-taking that industries are developed. By taking risk, some good industries are started and a large number of people are profited. Many people benefit from the activities of a few enterprising persons. We must in this country also encourage enterprise.

"Last of all, capital is required for the development of industries. The capital we have put into our industries is very low. I calculated about twelve years ago that it was 700 crores, including about 400 crores from British sources, and 300 crores from Indian sources. In Canada to-day, they have got, I think, about 1,600 crores or so. In Australia also they have a very large amount. Here we still have not more than 700 or 800 crores. With this capital you may be sure you will not become a nation and without borrowing money, you will not be able to develop industries. Even the United States built up here industries by borrowing money from England. I do not see why we should not borrow money, and there are more people who are very timid about it. Money can be borrowed by making arrangements with America. We want machinery, we want experts, we want capital. All these should be secured not in the ordinary way through Ambassadors and all that, but by special discussions at governmental level with the authorities at Washington. I am sure they will respond cordially. I have had personal discussions with some friends who are leading financiers and also with leading officers of the Government at Washington, and I think they are very well disposed. A beginning has to be made, and that can be made if they have confidence in our political conditions and also if the Government approach them with definite terms which should be very attractive to merchants and trades people there.

Dangers to Overcome

"There are three dangers in this country, gentlemen, and I think it is necessary to mention it at this time. The first danger is the absence of means of subsistence in certain spheres in certain parts of the country, and that has become chronic now. We must guard against that danger.

"The second danger is political. It is very important that we should develop our defence power to the maximum extent as early as possible; and it is necessary also that a large number of leaders in the country should go into that question and assure the public that all is well.

"Thirdly, there are many developments necessary. Take for instance the Bangalore Aeroplane Factory. It has been going on slowly. It started to manufacture aeroplanes, but the then Government soon stopped that. In future we should develop our aircraft factories as soon as possible.

"There is one more point I want to bring to your notice, and that is that it is very important that statistics should be improved. The very first thing to do is that in every region you must have a budget and plans for the coming year, and then at the end of the year there should be a statistical table showing the results. That should be done in every province, and it ought to be distributed amoug regional units. I want to suggest that regional units should be created in this country of three descriptions—one is city, second is town, and the third is groups of 15 or 20 villages. So these three units should be created and then budgets and statistics at the end of the year are all definitely prescribed. The whole system of industrial development should then come into proper order.

A Resolution calling upon labour and management to maintain industrial peace and avert strikes, lock-outs and slowing down of production for a period of three years was adopted unanimously at the Industries Conference held in New Delhi on Thursday under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerji.

The Resolution says:

"This Conference considers that the increase in industrial production which is so vital to the economy of the country cannot be achieved without the fullest co-operation between labour and management and stable and friendly relations between them. The employer must recognise the proper role of labour in industry and the need to secure for labour fair wages and working conditions; labour for its part must give equal recognition to its duty in contributing to the increase of the national income without which a permanent rise in the general standard of living cannot be achieved. Mutual discussion of all problems common to both and a determination to settle all disputes without recourse to interruption in or slowing down of production should be the common aim of employers and labour. The system of remuneration to capital as well as labour must be so devised that while in the interests of the consumers and the primary producers excessive profits should be prevented by suitable measures of taxation and otherwise, both will share the product of their common effort after making provision for payment of fair wages to labour, a fair return on capital employed in the industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of the undertaking.

For attaining these objectives, this Conference recommends:

(*a*) that the fullest use should be made of statutory and other machinery for the resolution of industrial disputes in a just and peaceful manner; where it does not exist, it should be created without delay. Such machinery should as far as possible be uniform throughout India.

(*b*) the establishment of machinery, Central, regional and functional, for the study and determination of fair wages and conditions of labour, and fair remuneration for capital; and methods for the association of labour in all matters concerning industrial production, such as the formation of Central, Regional and Unit Production Committees.

(*c*) the constitution in each industrial undertaking of Works Committees representing management and duly elected representatives of labour for the settlement of any dispute which may arise from day to day.

(*d*) that, as a first step towards improving the standard of living of workers, immediate attention should be devoted to the problem of housing of industrial labour; the cost of such housing should be shared in suitable proportions between the Government, employers and labour, the share of labour being given in the shape of a reasonable rent.

The principles enunciated above having been accepted, this Conference calls upon labour and management to agree to maintain industrial peace and to avert lock-outs, strikes or slowing down of production during the next 3 years.

This Conference invites labour and management to assist Government to secure, promote and guarantee such agreements between the parties as will usher in a period of contented and orderly advancement towards a co-operative Commonwealth.

Industrial expansion

Eight resolutions bearing on subjects relating to immediate expansion of industry and industrial planning, both short-term and long-term, were adopted at the Industries Conference which resumed its open session today. The Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, who presided, assured the Conference that these resolutions would have the prompt attention of the Government of India.

The resolutions adopted to-day deal respectively with (1) immediate, short-term and long-term objectives, (2) future industrial Policy, (3) foreign capital, (4) cottage and small-scale industries, (5) sales tax in Provinces and States, (6) excise on alcohol, (7) power alcohol and its admixture with petrol and (8) regular collection and maintenance of industrial statistics.

The Industries Conference is already setting up a special committee with the Hon'ble Prime Minister as Chairman.

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festival and the increase when compared to the previous month is due to the Kirthigai festival.

The increase in goods earnings compared to the previous year is due to greater movement of fruits and vegetables, salt, firewood, sugar, coal and other goods while the decrease in comparison with October 1947 is due to less movement of grain and pulses, cotton, timber, coal, oilseeds and other goods.

		November 1946.	*November* 1947.	*October* 1947.
Coaching traffic—				
Number of passengers ..		8,691,301	12,856,210	12,468,420
Earnings	Rs.	57,78,514	69,51,763	67,55,512
Goods traffic—				
Weight in tons		495,109	483,697	539,083
Earnings	Rs.	44,16,[illegible]87	46,91,200	49,81,38[illegible]

Electricity Development in the Province

Mr. Bakthavatsalam's Broadcast

This is an age o electricity. India is a land of villages and the reconstruction of these villages is a major task of all Governments. For this, electricity is an essential accessory. The Hon'ble Minister, in his broadcast, surveys the present position of electricity in the Province and the plans for its future development.

Electricity has a big part to play in the reconstruction of the country. The pace of industrial, economic and social improvements much depends on cheap power being made available over the whole countryside.

The role of electricity in the shaping of our social and economic future is understood only imperfectly by the general public. Electricity is not merely a form of energy which gives light, heat and motive power to industries. It is mobile power capable of instant transmission over long distances and convertible easily into an extraordinary variety of forms for multifarious uses.

Decentralization of Industry

This feature of mobility has a special significance to us in this land of villages. Our way of life is centred in the village and all our plans for reconstruction aim at aiding the village to improve its living conditions by increased production of crops, goods, services and amenities. From the experience of western countries we learn that large-scale industries centred in urban areas had brought several social and economic evils. These evils are directly traceable to the circumstance which necessitated the migration of the industrial worker from his village home to the urban areas. We therefore prefer that our future development should be more in the form of cottage and village industries which allow the worker to live in his own home and amidst familiar surroundings. In other words, while we desire industrialization and increased production of goods, we want them so decentralized that every village and home is a centre of production. Electricity enables this decentralization to be effected without any difficulty or loss of efficiency, as power in even minute quantities can readily and cheaply be made available in every village home.

Electricity will invigorate the countryside as no other single agency can. It is indispensable for industries. It will bring about a better balance between agriculture and industry providing all-round employment. Families will earn more and live better. Electric pumping will stabilize agriculture and make it less of an adventure that it now is. It will bring urban comforts to remote areas and the cultural education and entertainment which the radio affords can endow village life with an attractiveness which is not there now.

Power Resources

This Province cannot be said to be well endowed with natural power resources. No coal or oil deposits exist but recently lignite or inferior coal has been located in the South Arcot district. If the investigations which are proceeding indicate that it can be mined economically, it would be of great importance to industries as well as power development in the Province.

There are a good number of water-power sites in the Western Ghats and a few in the Eastern Ghats. About 75 sites have been examined so far in more or less detail but of these only 17 are

Admission—Dehra Dun Military College

The Government of India have decided that the next term at the Prince of Wales' Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, will commence on the 3rd of February 1948 and close on the 29th of May. This change of dates effects only the next term.

Approximately fifty-two vacancies will be available at the College for admissions for the term. Out of these twenty-six vacancies will be filled by applicants who have attained the age of 11 years and are under 12 years on the date of commencement of the term of the College, i.e., on January 20, 1948, for which applications have already been forwarded. The remaining vacancies will be filled from the higher age groups for which the educational standard will be as follows:—

Age group.	*Approximate number of vacancies available.*	*Eductional standard.*
12–13 ..	10	7th Class.
13–14 ..	9	8th Class.
[illegible]15 ..	7	9th Class.

In order to be eligible for admission to any of the above classes an applicant should have attained on the 20th January 1948, the lower age-limit prescribed, but must not have reached the higher age-limit on that date. Applicants in the higher age groups will be required to pass an entrance examination which will be held at Delhi Cantonment under arrangements to be made by the Army Headquarters (India). This examination will assess the general educational standard attained by the applicants and will determine the extent to which they compare with cadets of their corresponding age groups at the college. They will be required to travel to and from Delhi at their own expense.

Candidates who are eligible for the entrance examination for higher age groups should submit their applications through the District Officer of the district in which they reside so as to reach the United Provinces Government in the General Administration Department, [illegible]ucknow, not later than December [illegible] 1947. No application received after [illegible] date [illegible]sidered.

Electricity for Agriculture

Questions and answers in the Legislative Council amply reveal that the Government are giving the utmost priority to the needs of agriculture especially in regard to electricity there is a shortage of materials and they are purchased from wherever they are available. Orders have been placed on foreign countries but it may take time to get goods. The Government are strengthening the service stations and constructing new supply stations to increase the load. The Machkand scheme is expected to go through. Government are taking steps to strengthen the Bezwada station and for the construction of another thermal station at Nellore. They are giving utmost priority to agricultural demands but could not do so to the detriment of industrial and other purposes. The Government are fully alive to the importance of assisting agriculturists and would do everything necessary and possible.

at present considered worth development in the near future. A tentative estimate for primary—all the year round—power would be 400,000 K.W. Seasonal power to the extent of 300,000 K.W. would be available for some months in the year. This is not a large amount of power and it has to be recognized that Madras is among the poorer provinces of India as regards water-power wealth. Punjab, Bengal and Bombay are several times more wealthy.

Power Developed

About a *fifth* of the available primary water-power has been brought to use. Three Government hydro-electric installations are now working, those at Pykara in the Nilgiris, at Mettur on the Cauvery river, and at Papanasam on the Tambraparni river. During last year, i.e., 1946–47, these stations developed 300 million units.

In addition, the Government own thermal plants at Madras, Bezwada, Vizagapatam, Cocanada and Kurnool. The plant in Madras City was taken over by the Government in August last. With the acquisition of this plant, Government become responsible for generating 98 per cent of all the power produced in the Province.

Last year, the total amount of electricity generated in the Province was 409 million units or roughly eight units per capita. This is small compared to:

Mysore which uses 44 units per capita;

Great Britain which uses 800 units per capita; and

United States of America which uses 1,600 units per capita.

Consumption of electricity is often used as the yardstick of material prosperity. It will be seen that we have much headway to make and Government are fully alive to the need for rapid development of all our power resources. It is their intention to spread the use of electricity over the whole countryside and since the inception of the Government Electricity department, the objective of forming a network or grid of power-houses and transmission lines covering the Province had been kept in mind, and action taken accordingly.

The Madras Grid

The grid at present consists broadly of—

(1) the hydro portion covering the southern parts of the Province and fed by the interconnected power-houses at Pykara, Mettur and Papanasam;

(2) the thermal area of Madras; and

(3) the thermal area in the Andhra districts fed by the power-houses at Vizagapatam, Cocanada, Bezwada and Kurnool.

The grid at present is therefore in patches with intervening gaps. Plans have been prepared to fill in these gaps as early as possible and evolve a Province-wide interconnected grid. It is also the intention to connect this grid with the power networks of the neighbouring provinces and States. Connection has already been established with Travancore and an agreement to take bulk power from Mysore for use in the Ceded Districts has been concluded.

The Madras grid has now over 3,400 miles of high tension transmission lines and 2,000 miles of low tension distribution lines.

The total capital outlay so far on the grid (*excluding* the Madras Thermal plant for which the sale price is not yet settled) is Rs. 9 crores.

Among the major industries which are fed from the grid are :—

Textiles.	Railway workshops.
Cement.	Ship-building.
Chemicals.	Tea-curing.
Steel-rolling.	

Seventy-eight municipal towns in the Province and over 1,100 villages have been electrified. In the villages, the principal use is for pumping water for irrigation and there are over 7,500 such pumps now. There are also over 900 rural industries worked by electricity most of them serving to process the agricultural raw produce such as ginning cotton, hulling rice, milling corn, decorticating nuts, crushing sugar-canes, etc. Madras leads all other Provinces and States in India in the measure of rural electrification effected.

Five-Year Plan of Development

The public have become electrical-minded and there is widespread demand for rural electrification. The Government are doing all they can to meet this demand and they have sanctioned a five-year plan of development costing Rs. 15 crores. A brief review of the plan is given below.

Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme

This scheme on the Machkund river on the Madras-Orissa border is for an initial installation of 52,000 K.W. to serve the Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur districts. The scheme is being constructed jointly with the Orissa Government and Madras will get 70 per cent of the output. The plant will be ready for operation in 1951. To meet the demand of the concerned districts in the meanwhile, the steam plants at Bezwada and Vizagapatam power-houses are being increased by 9,000 K.W. Work is in progress.

Nellore Thermal Station

This would serve the Nellore area and have an initial installed capacity of 5,000 K.W. Two transportable power sets had been ordered and they have been received. Work will shortly commence.

Madras Thermal Station

The Madras Electric Supply Corporation undertaking was taken over last August by the Government. As the plant is barely adequate for existing loads and as large industrial and general demand for power is expected in the City and its environs, additional plant of capacity 15,000 K.W. has been ordered and will be in service by the end of 1949. In the meanwhile, to meet the immediate and pressing demand, two transportable power sets totalling 5,000 K.W. are under erection and will start working within a few weeks.

The Madras plant will also be interconnected with Mettur by a 110,000 volt line which is under erection.

Moyar Hydro Scheme

A power-house utilizing the tail waters of Pykara is under construction with an installed capacity of 37,500 K.W. The plant will be in operation in 1949 and will help to meet the growing demands of the Mettur System especially in the Salem, Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts.

Pykara Hydro Extensions

These consist of a second dam on the Pykara river and additional pipe and power units of capacity of 27,000 K.W. at the Pykara station. The work will be completed by 1951 and the increasing power demands of the Coimbatore, Malabar and South Kanara areas will be met.

Papanasam Extensions and Madura Thermal Station

These provide for increased storage in the existing lake at Papanasam and an additional 7,000 K.W. generating unit. Work is in progress and will be completed in 1948.

To make up the dry weather power shortage at Papanasam, a thermal

station at Madura of capacity 4,000 K.W. is under erection and will be ready next year.

The combined output of Papanasam and Madura will suffice to meet the demand in the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts for the immediate future.

Ceded Districts Grid

This area will eventually be supplied by the Tungabhadra Hydro Power station. Pending its construction by 1952, an advance scheme for the development of the area by a grid has been sanctioned. Bulk power to the extent of 4,000 K.W. is to be bought from the Mysore Jog Hydro Scheme for a period of five years and supply will be available at Kudligi, Hospet, Bellary, Adoni, Guntakal and the neighbourhood by early 1949. Work on the transmission lines is in progress.

A number of major and minor transmission and distribution schemes has also been sanctioned and work is in hand.

The schemes outlined above will result in *doubling* the existing capacity of power plant in the Province and as already mentioned will cost Rs. 15 crores.

Rural Electrification

There is an immense public awakening to the benefits arising from the use of electric power in the villages and urgent demands are being made for extension of supply to large rural areas. Government are doing all they can to meet the demand. Power plant and line materials have been ordered in large quantities but serious delays are occurring in their delivery. This is attributable to world conditions brought about by the war. Difficulty is also being experienced in getting steel, in arranging transport and in getting sufficient number of civil engineers for field work. There is further difficulty in getting consumers' appliances such as industrial motors, pumping sets, piping, etc. These hindrances to progress are likely to persist for at least a couple of years more and all constructions programmes must take account of them.

Future Plans

Plans for starting several new industries in the Province are under discussion. The South Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways have schemes for the electrification of some of their main lines, and they intend to take these up shortly. These demands together with the needs of urban and rural supply have to be met in good time as they arise and the Government are planning accordingly. Good hydro schemes are available on the Palni Hills, in the Nilgiris and on the Cauvery and Godavari rivers and they will be taken up for execution in due course.

—By Courtesy A.I.R., Madras.

Sea Fisheries

The harvest of the seas only awaits to be collected, said Dr. D. D. Dasen, speaking at the weekly meeting of the Bengal Rotary Club recently. The Indian coast line gives us some 4,000 miles of access to wide seas where at present there is practically no fishing. At present regular fishing is confined to inshore waters mostly 5 to 6 miles from the shore and carried on by primitive methods of fishing with primitive types of craft and tackle while the deep sea has not even been quantitatively explored except in places. Fishermen in India are along-shore-men, not venturing on the open sea.

Statistics of the landing of sea fish on the West Coast of the Madras Presidency by fishermen following primitive methods are available. The area fished was only 5 to 6 miles from the coast and the fishing craft used was a dug-out canoe. On a coast 284 miles long, 180,000 tons of fish were landed in 1925 to 1926. And this was a poor year. The number of fishermen in this region was 25,548. The average quantity of fish landed by a fisherman works out at 7 tons for the year. The corresponding average for Japan is only three tons according to official reports. The Fishery Board for Scotland recorded an average of over 12 tons per fisherman for the year 1926. If therefore the Malabar Fisherman fishing only within 5 or 6 miles from the coast with the most primitive type of boats and nets and tackle can catch in a poor year more than 50 per cent of the quantities fished by the Scottish fishermen who fish many miles away from the home ports using modern vessels and mechanised methods we may safely conclude that the Malabar coast is as rich as the best Scottish waters.

The evidence from Trawl-fishing in deeper waters up to about 70 fathoms on the Indian coast is also convincing. Trawling Surveys in Indian waters were conducted by the "Golden Crown" in Bengal from 1908 to 1911, the "Lilla" in Ceylon from 1920 to 1923, "The William Carrick" in Bombay in 1921 and 1922; and by the "Lady Goschen" in Madras from 1927 to 1930. Although the hours of work and the classification of fish were not the same for the different Trawlers, the results can be reduced to a more or less uniform basis for purpose of comparison. The average catch per day's fishing of 21 hours of the Steam Trawler "Golden Crown" in Bengal was 26·6 cwt. exclusive of sharks and rays; that of "Lilla" was over 47 cwt. and that of "Lady Goschen" on the Pedro bank opposite Tanjore district over 68 cwt., while the average catch of the Steam Trawler "William Carrick" in Bombay was 19·04 cwt., exclusive of sharks and rays, prawns and turtles. It is thus seen that the catch per day's trawling in Indian waters varies from 19·04 cwt. to 68 cwt. The corresponding figures for English [illegible] Port ranged from 14·62 cwt. in Portuguese and Morocan waters to 49·3 cwt. in Iceland waters in 1921.

English fishing vessels are much larger and better fitted and work on strictly commercial lines and on well-known grounds.

Had the Indian trawlers been worked on a purely commercial basis the catches would have been larger. The data available, therefore, from the coast as well as from deeper waters support the view that the yield of tropical waters is at least as great as that of colder seas.

From the above we may attempt to estimate the total available food in the Indian seas. The length of the Indian Union's coast line is about 4,000 miles; excluding bays and inundations it is probably 3,100 miles. The area within the 100 fathom line varies in width along the coast. It is about 41 miles from Calcutta to Cocanada, only about 20 miles from Cocanada to Negapatam, about 52 miles from Negapatam to Cape Comorin and about 88 miles from there to Kathiawar. Calculating on these averages the area within the 100 fathom line is about 200,000 square miles.

For estimating the possible production of Indian seas the only data available for all classes of fish are the fairly accurate statistics of landings of sea fish on the Malabar Coast which indicates an average catch per square mile of sea fished to be 98·8 tons.

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Department's Forum

Department of Industries and Commerce

Sericulture

It is beyond dispute that in a primarily agricultural country like India, cottage industries are necessary to supplement the unsteady income of the agriculturist. Much of the economic backwardness under which the agriculturist is labouring in the present day is attributed to want of properly organized cottage industries just to provide a 'stand-by' for the agriculturist when his main occupation gives way. So far as this province is concerned, there are a number of cottage industries which can be exploited profitably. Of these, sericulture is one of the most important. This province occupies an important place among the few silk-producing centres in India. Investigations which were carried out with a view to determining the localities of this province in which suitable climatic and other conditions required for sericulture are obtainable and the period during which sericultural operations could be carried out successfully, indicate that a number of tracts in the Ceded and Northern Districts of this Province fulfil the necessary conditions. It has also been recorded that mulberry silk worms from which the silk of commercial importance is obtained, can be successfully reared and that the bush mulberry, which is the common type in this part of the country, may be grown over a wide range of soil. The extent under mulberry cultivation which was 11,076 acres in 1920–21 is now round about 20,000 acres. The resources of this industry may be judged from the fact that it supports as many 20,000 to 30,000 families in the province and the annual production of silk is estimated to be 1½ lakhs lb. valued at Rs. 75 lakhs.

Government action

The Government realized the importance of this industry long ago and created a separate sericultural section under the technical guidance of sericultural experts in 1919 in order to organize the industry on scientific and rational lines. The Sericultural Expert is assisted by five Assistant Sericultural Experts under whom there is a network of specially trained technical staff to keep the Sericulturists in continuous touch with the day-to-day developments in the industry and to assist them in their practical application. The Budgetary grants have increased appreciably in recent years from Rs. 10,591 in 1920–21 and Rs. 3,41,988 in 1944–45. Since 1919, the Department has launched on several schemes of far-reaching importance intended to develop the industry on modern lines and during the last two decades, the usefulness of the sericultural section has considerably increased. Some of the steps taken by the Government to stimulate the sericultural industry may be briefly indicated.

Expansion Programme

In 1942, the Government launched on an expansion programme and commenced to grant concessions like remissions of assessment on areas newly brought under mulberry, loans and assignment of waste lands for cultivation free of cost, free supply of cuttings for planting, etc., and as a result of this, the area under mulberry cultivation increased from 8,479 acres in 1941-42 to 18,026 acres in 1944-45. A sum of Rs. 65,000 has been so far distributed as loans and 1,261 acres of waste land assigned to landless poor. The sericulturists are taught the advantages of raising seedling plantations in preference to cuttings with a view to increasing the yield of leaves. Free mulberry saplings are also supplied to cultivators to have them grown in the hedges and back-yards of the houses of rearers, so that the leaves from these trees, which are rich in nutritive contents, m[illegible] supplement the leaves from the bushe[illegible]

One of the Assistant Sericultural Exp[illegible]rts has been specially deputed to tackle problems connected with the improvement of the yield and quality of the mulberry leaves with the ultimate object of reducing the cost of production since the cost of mulberry leaves forms nearly 70 per cent of the cost of production of silk.

Other steps to promote Indus'ry

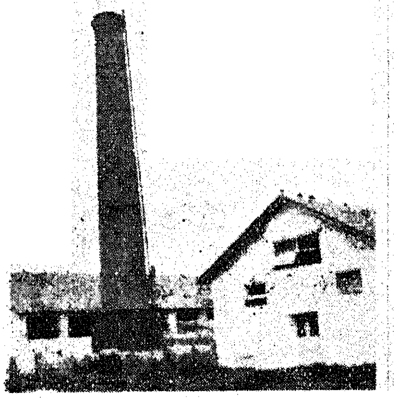
The most important thing connected with the industry is the supply of disease-free layings in adequate quantities at the proper season. For this purpose, the Government are maintaining Seed Pro[illegible]ing Centres techni- [illegible]own[illegible] for the purpose of preparation and distribution of examined seeds for the benefit of the silkworm rearers in this Province. A system of aided grainages is also in force manned by practical Sericulturists specially trained for the purpose. The output of disease-free layings, both in the Government and aided grainages has advanced from 3,407 in 1921–22 to 5,570,277 in 1944–45. Farms have been organized in Madras in order to ensure a perennial supply of seeds. Though these are of recent origin the progress so far made has been considerable. Production has increased from 938,745 in 1943-44 to 11,127,750 in 1944–45. These farms also conduct selective rearings of pure local race for seed purposes. A Hill Rearing Station is being maintained at Coonoor in order to preserve the vigour and vitality of the exotic races of worms in a tropical country like Madras. There are also Government Silk Farms located at Kollegal, Thadaguni, Hosur and Palmaner, mainly for the multiplication of the foreign races of worms. A farm with nearly 100 acres under mulberry has also been recently established at Hosur for the production of foreign race seed cocoons required in cross-breeding. This farm with seven model rearing houses is the biggest of its kind in India. The production of foreign race seed cocoons has increased from 1,959,418 in 1943–44 to 7,231,740 in 1944–45.

The Government Farms and Grainages also disseminate the knowledge gained by the Department besides providing practical demonstrations to rearers in the vicinity. The Department is also maintaining a separate Research Section under a Pathology Assistant for conducting experiments. A cold ctorage plant with a capacity of 1,200 cubic feet has been installed in the Model Rearing House attached to the Central Silk Farm in Kollegal for the benefit of the seed producers. The Government are maintaining cocoon markets in this province to afford marketing facilities to the silkworm rearers to meet in a common place and to get a fair payment for their cocoons. The Department has also trained a number of young men in sericulture technique on stipends varying from Rs. 15 to Rs. 30. Students from other Provinces and States have also been trained.

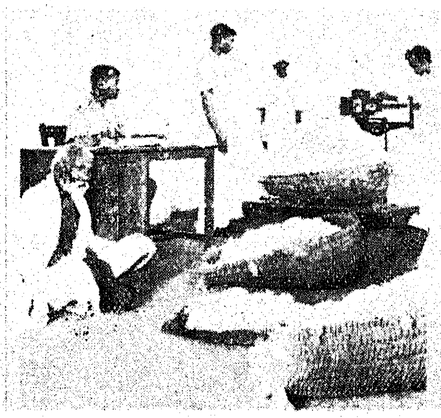
Filature Section

The history of filature section in this Province may be traced back to 1937 when a Joint Stock Company called the Kollegal Silk Filatures, Limited, was formed. The last Congress Minist[illegible]

(Continued on page 43)



Chimney of the Government Silk Filatures, Kollegal



The Government have established cocoon markets where sellers are assured of correct weighment, proper assessment of rates, etc.

The steam chamber into which cocoons placed in perforated trays are pushed in a trolley—a metho for killing pupae in cocoons

Another method of killing pupae in the cocoons. Hot air chamber process

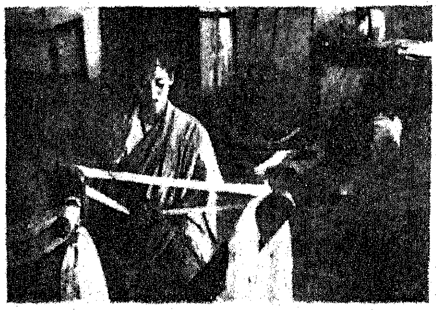
An array of trays spread with steamed cocoons spread on more cocoons and some more gunny bags

Sorting cut of cocoons into various kinds

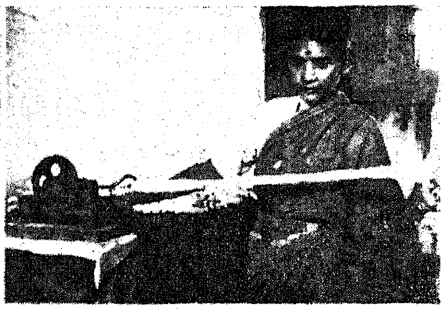
The Reeling Hall

Reelers—The woman in the picture is a coaker with her basket of cocoons beside her

The output of silk are daily brought in the form of silken bands to the silk stores



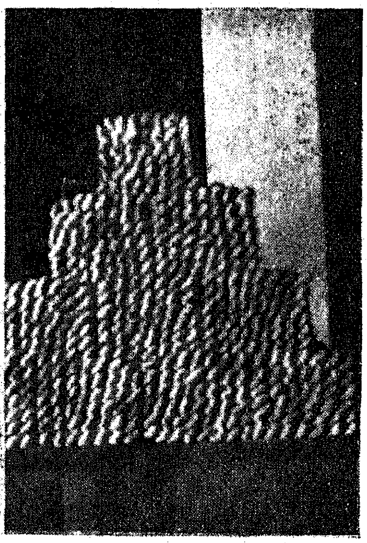
A silk cleaner



The silk hank is being twisted into skein

Chop marks is affixed on brown paper packing

Bales of silk waste sorted into different varieties



'Books' or bundles of skeins

(*Continued from page* 39)

Working on this basis the possible production of the sea up to 100 fathom line which has about 200,000 square miles excluding Pakistan, should be about 20,000,000 tons when fully exploited. Therefore the sea-fisheries of the Indian Union should provide 145 lb. of fish annually per head of population or 107 grams of fish daily which is equal to about 40 grams of protein. This will more than make good the deficiency of 30 grams of protein in the diet of the poorest classes ascertained. Fat and vitamin A, the two other factors deficient in Indian food, will also be considerably augmented if the 145 lb. of fish be made annually available per head of the population. This would work out at about 14 grams of fat per head daily.

This untapped source of food in the Indian Seas is independent of climate and the complex problems of production which we face on land.

Efforts in many directions are needed such as research, introduction of power-boats, development of refrigeration, up-to-date fishing methods and transport by rail and motor. Even in advanced countries this is a field for pioneer effort by Government. In the present condition of India for large planned practical work State-aid is indispensable.

Japan provides an object lesson as to what is possible. Until the end of the 19th Century, Japan's fishing fleet consisted only of small undecked sailing Sampan—15 to 30 feet long. Up to 1906 power-boats were unknown. By 1914 small motor boats had been introduced to the tune of about 900. Their number increased to 21,000 by 1927 and to 30,000 by 1931. We do not know what their position was just before the war started. In 1906 with a population of 48 millions the total catch of sea-fish was 640,000 tons. This production was by set purpose developed by State-aid until in 1927 with a population of 60 millions the catches had risen to 2,250,000 tons and Japan had taken the foremost place among the fishing countries of the world.

For India with its ill-fed and rapidly increasing population the lesson is obvious. Indian fisheries offer an enormous source of food supply. If developed, it will go a long way to revolutionize the diet of the masses.

The health of a nation is its greatest asset and the foundation of good health is a sufficient and properly balanced diet. Here is a matter which must be looked into by all well-wishers of India's progress, by all leaders of thought and men of action.

(*Continued from page* 40)

gave a fillip to the promoters of the Company by subscribing for a certain percentage of shares. The Company did not however fare well for various reasons one of which was the cut-throat competition from Japanese and Chinese silk. Since the close of the war various improvements to the filature have been carried out.

The Present position

The Sericulture section is manned by 268 persons today in Kollegal, Gobichettipalayam, Coimbatore taluks in Coimbatore district, Hosur taluk in Salem district, Palmaner and Madanapalli taluks and Kuppam and Punganur zamins in the Chittoor district, Coonoor in the Nilgiri district and the districts of Bellary and Anantapur, Vizagapatam East and West Godavari and Tinnevelly districts. There are one Central and eleven other silk farms, one Central Government Grainage and three subgrainage and 30 Government Aided Grainages in the Province.

Different stages of silk production

Elsewhere in this issue are published pictures showing the various stages in the process of silk production from cocoons. These stages may be briefly indicated. The silk worm rearers bring their harvest of cocoons to the Government cocoon markets for sale where they are always assured of correct weighment and proper assessment of rates according to quality and ready payment. Government have established cocoon markets for this purpose. The cocoons purchased by the Market Officers are transported by lorries to the Filature. Inside the cocoon there is the pupae or the Chrysalides. On the 10th day after the cocoons are spun by silk worms these will emerge as moths and thus render cocoons unfit for reeling. To prevent the emergence of moths and the consequent loss to the Filature, the green or live cocoons are stifled in a steam chamber for a period of about 20 minutes. The pupae and cocoons are also killed by subjecting the cocoons to a drought of hot air in a hot air chamber. Then these cocoons are sorted into good, flimsy and double qualities. After sorting, they are despatched to the reeling hall where boys function as the reelers. The day's production of silk is then reduced to a form of silken bands and taken into the silk stores where they are cleaned and stored. Then they are made into skeins and later into bundles known technically as 'books'. These books are packed carefully and stored in the godown. The silk waste is also sorted into different qualities.

Revenue

Prohibition, in October 1947

Prohibition is proving a powerful lever in bringing about social and economic improvement among the poor classes. The following report speaks for itself.

The total number of cases detected in the 8 old districts during October 1947 was 2,738 as against 2,708 in September. The total number of cases detected in the new eight districts was only 658. The low number of cases detected in those new districts may be due either to the absence of any wide-spread efforts to violate the prohibition laws immediately after the introduction or to the lack of time on the part of the probibition staff to start an organized drive against prohibition offences in view of their having taken up their stations recently.

The number of cases of sumggling of liquor into the dry area decreased from 76 to 64 in the old Prohibition districts. In the new Prohibition districts 9 cases of smuggling liquor into Malabar, 18 into Trichinopoly, 4 into South Kanara and 1 into Tanjore were reported. The smuggling was mainly from the neighbouring Indian states and French Establishments. The preventive staff have been instructed to keep a vigilant eye on the borders to prevent smuggling.

The number of cases relating intoxicating drugs in the old Prohibition districts decreased from 187 to 170. The number in the new districts was 190, of which 166 related to unlicensed possession.

Substitute for drink.—The Government had sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 100 for each shop for the provision of refreshment stalls in the place of 1,900 of the more important drink shops in the new Prohibition districts. Instructions were issued for the provision of refreshments to the ex-addicts at these stalls for a maximum period of three months from the date of inauguration of Prohibition. In the old districts the refreshment stalls which were being run by private persons continued to be popular and their stalls are reported to be increasing.

Rural recreation.—The 73 Rural Recreation Officers who were working in the 15 Prohibition districts except the Nilgiris during the month visited 1,735 villages and organized rural games in 927 villages. Forty-one firka tournaments and 12 taluk tournaments were also held during the month. The figures for the Nilgiri district are not available.

Bhajanas, harikathas and kalakshepams, etc.—Bhajanas, harikathas or Kalakshepams were held in 1,450 villages. Folk dances or cinema shows were held in 414 villages at the instance of the Development officers. Performances were given by local dramatic troupes in the districts of Chittoor, Anantapur, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, South Kanara, North Arcot and Trichinopoly.

Ballad singers.—The 57 ballad singers who were working during the month visited 557 villages and organized community singing in 159 villages. 1,266 villagers were trained in community singing.

Propaganda vans.—Propaganda vans in the districts of Salem, Cuddapah, Anantapur, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Bellary, Tanjore, Madura and South Kanara visited 7, 15, 24, 2, 33, 16, 8, 38 and 6 villages respectively. The vans in Trichinopoly, Nellore, Guntur, Kurnool and Anantapur were not in good condition.

Grama sangams.—Three hundred and twenty-four grama sangams, 15 firka associations and 10 taluk associations were formed during the month bringing the total number formed till the end of the month to 7,328 grama sangams, 212 firka associations and 56 taluk associations. The grama sangams attended to various beneficial activities.

Rural uplift schools.—The fourth rural uplift school was opened in each of the districts of Salem and Cuddapah during the month.

Thrift.—A total of Rs. 14,907 was saved during the month in hundi boxes and the total amount up to the end of the month was Rs. 1,13,845.

Uplift of women.—The Indian Women Civic Corps branches at Salem, Coimbatore and Arkonam carried on propaganda among women.

Employment of ex-tappers.—The number of ex-tappers who were thrown out of employment in the new eight Prohibition districts is as follows :—

South Kanara	..	15,000
Malabar	.. ..	28,489
Trichinopoly	..	1,791
Nellore	.. ..	2,465
Tanjore	.. ..	4,555
Madura	.. ..	1,700
The Nilgiris	..	..
Guntur	.. ..	2,930

In South Kanara district 13 Co-operative Societies for palmyrah jaggery manufacture were organized of which 4 were registered. 900 licences were issued. The Government have also since sanctioned the organization of Co-operative Societies for the manufacture of coconut jaggery in selected centres. It is proposed to organize 40 more societies, and nearly 8,000 tappers will be absorbed in the preparation of jaggery. It is also proposed to organize land colonization societies, and coir-making societies in Puthur, Mangalore, Udipi and Kasaragod taluks. In Malabar district the problem of finding employment to ex-tappers presented itself in a rather acute form. Nineteen Co-operative Societies for the manufacture of palmyrah jaggery were organized and registered. Of these, 10 have since started work. About 800 licences were issued to ex-tappers to draw sweet juice from palmyrah trees. The Government have also since sanctioned the formation of Coconut Jaggery Co-operative Societies in selected centres.

In Trichinopoly district some of the ex-tappers have taken to house building, and a majority of them are expected to take to agriculture. In Nellore and Tanjore districts some of the ex-tappers have found employment in agricultural operations. The problem of unemployment was not acute in Madura district. In Guntur district most of the ex-tappers owned lands.

Beneficial effects of Prohibition

The reports received from the Collectors and Special Development Officers of the old districts indicate that there has been a general improvement in the social and economic condition of the ex-addicts. The poorer classes are reported to be drawing their rations in full. They are better fed, better clothed and appear cheerful. It is reported that most of them are utilizing their savings in purchasing lands, domestic articles, jewels for their wives and children, and in construction of houses and clearance of old debts. It is too soon to expect any perceptible improvement in the condition of the ex-addicts in the new 8 districts where Prohibition was introduced on 1st October 1947.

Labour Department

The Labour Situation in the Province for the Second Fortnight of November 1947

During the fortnight under reference five cases were referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication, in three cases amicable settlements were brought about through the efforts of the Commissioner of Labour and in two other cases possibilities of settlement are being explored by Local officers.

The Government have constituted a Provincial Town-Planning Committee to examine the working of the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920, with a view to making the Act more comprehensive and effective with Sri K. R. Karanth, M.L.A., as Chairman and twelve others including the Commissioner of Labour as members. They have also appointed the Inspector of Factories, Mangalore, and the Labour Officer, Calicut, as Inspectors under the Payment of Wages Act for South Kanara district and Malabar district respectively.

The General Secretary, Madras Tramway Employees' Union, has issued a notice of strike, dated 17th November 1947, to the management of the Madras Electric Tramways, Limited, Madras. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Government have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, in the dispute between the workers and the management of Abraham Bus Transport, Limited, Poonamallee, Chingleput district.

They have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Gordon Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Company, Limited, Pallavaram, Chingleput district, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication.

The dispute between the workers and the management of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, in respect of the alleged victimization of a worker has also been referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication.

The Secretary of the Satyamangalam Motor Workers' Union, has issued a notice of strike, dated 15th November 1947, to the Proprietor of B.M.S. Motor Service, Coimbatore, demanding interim relief bonus, dearness allowance, etc. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about a settlement on the lines of the settlement brought about by the Commissioner of Labour at Erode.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, during his visit to Erode met the workers' representatives and the managements of the A.M.T., Limited, and C.S.T., Limited, Erode and brought about a settlement of the dispute.

The strike notice given by the Dharapuram Motor Workers' Union on the management of G.M.S., Limited, Mettupalaiyam, was withdrawn on the intervention of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

The managing agents of Saroja Mills, Limited, Singanallur, Coimbatore, have withdrawn the notice of closure of mills and agreed to implement the award of the Industrial Tribunal on the assurance given by the Ministers of the Central Government that sufficient relief will be given from 1st December 1947 to Mills spinning coarse counts.

In the light of the recent discussions at Coimbatore between the Provincial Textile Commissioner, the Commissioner of Labour and the Southern India Mill Owners' Association, Coimbatore, the management of the Kaleeswarar Mills, Coimbatore, have withdrawn the notice of closure of the mills.

The management of Sri Sarada Mills, Podanur, Coimbatore district, have informed that in the light of the conference between the Ministers and the Southern India Mill Owners' Association, Coimbatore, they have deferred action on their notice of closure of the mills.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, reported that on the night of 22nd November 1947 serious clashes took place between the workers belonging to the branch of the District Textile Workers' Union at Udamalpet and the loyal workers of Tirumurthi Mills in

which two persons died and five injured. As a result of this, the mills remained closed for two days and work was re-started on 24th November 1947.

The Labour Officer, Bezwada, reports that the management of Messrs. M. A. Noor Mohamad & Co., Tanners, Ellore, have closed their tannery on 19th November 1947 after giving 14 units of wages to their workers.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Pierce Leslie and Company, Jeppo, Mangalore, to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. The workers who struck work on 3rd November 1947 resumed work on 17th November 1947.

The workers of T.B.T., Ltd. (Bus Transport), Palghat, struck work on 21st November 1947. The Government have referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication and prohibited the continuance of the strike and lock-out. The workers resumed work on 26th November 1947.

The management of the Rajah Mills, Limited, Madura, have closed down the mills from 16th November 1947 alleging that they have incurred heavy loss. They have not also paid arrears of wages due under the award.

The Government have asked the District Magistrate to prosecute the management.

The hotel workers of Madura struck work on 27th November 1947 demanding four months wages as bonus. The Government have referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication and prohibited the continuance of strike and lock-out. The workers resumed work on 28th November 1947.

The Divisional Electrical Engineer, Papanasam Project, has reported that the labourers of Papanasam Project Operation and Maintenance Division, struck work on 19th November 1947. The Chief Engineer for Electricity, Madras, is taking necessary action.

The Commissioner of Labour has brought about a settlement of the dispute between the workers and the management of the V.M.S. Public Conveyance, Limited, Karur, and the former has withdrawn the strike notice.

Education

Reorganization of Secondary Education.—The Sub-Committees appointed for the drafting of provisional syllabuses in the subjects of the proposed reorganized secondary schools courses commenced their work in the first week of December.

Basic education.—A meeting of the Basic Education Advisory Board was held on the 18th November 1947 with the Hon'ble Minister for Education in the chair. The Sub-Committee of the Board also met, Mr. V. R. Ranganathan, Deputy Director, presiding.

The progress made in Basic Education was briefly stated by the Basic Education Officers at Headquarters and Andhra Desa and the plan for the year 1948-49 was discussed. The holding of an examination at the end of the Training Course for the award of certificates, the adoption of the Pre-Basic syllabus for pupils below the age of 6½ years, the opening of workshops attached to Basic Training Schools, preparation of syllabuses for crafts other than spinning, weaving and agriculture, housing of basic institutions and the preparation of Basic Education literature were considered.

A committee has been appointed to consider the question of Research in Education with the Principal of the Teachers' College, Saidapet, as convenor.

Firka Development department

Rome was not built in a day. There is no possibility of miracles being wrought in the field of rural reconstruction. The process is bound to be a slow one and needs the close co-operation of the masses.

The following is a brief summary of the work done so far in the field of Firka development.

Agriculture.—Under this item, the Firka Development Staff have been inducing the villagers to dig manure pits. A large number of such pits have been dug up in these firkas. The firka Development Officers have also been arranging for an equitable distribution of manures, cart tyres, iron implements and seeds required by the ryots of the firkas concerned. In Tirumangalam, about 28 acres of waste land have been brought under cultivation. In Kumbla, Saliamangalam and Trivellore, Proddatur firkas, 35 acres, 70 acres and 32 acres, 200 acres of patta waste lands respectively have been brought under cultivation due to the efforts of the Firka Development Staff. Cashewnuts seedling plots are being put up in many villages of the Kadambuliyur firka. About 29·71 acres, 32 acres, 105 acres and 43 acres of land have been brought under cultivation in Kalasapakkam, Nagari, Sermadevi and Guruvareddipalem respectively. The Firka Development Staff are persuading the ryots to apply for subsidies under the Well Subsidy Scheme. In Dendulur firka, the Firka Development Staff induced the ryots to make use of the subsidies for wells to an extent of Rs. 70,000. Two thousand bags of groundnut cake were brought from Cocanada and supplied to ryots.

Irrigation.—In Veerapandy firka, repairs to an irrigation source have been completed and the work of repairing two of the irrigation sources is in progress. Minor items of kudimaramat work have been carried out in five villages of Nagari firka and electric pump-sets for two wells have been installed. In Tellicherry firka, one canal has been broadened and deepened due to the efforts of the Firka Development staff. In Sermadevi, lift irrigation in respect of four wells has been made possible. In Kurnool firka two wells have been constructed and the water is used for growing vegetables. In Dendulur, some minor irrigation tanks were repaired and steps are being taken to get Seethampeta Irrigation Scheme sanctioned on improved lines. About 5,000 feet of pipes of 4 inches to 6 inches have been supplied by the Director of Industries and Commerce and about 20 wells have been sunk in Dendulur firka.

Rural Water-Supply.—In Tirumangalam firka seven drinking water wells have been repaired. Two new wells have been sunk in Musiri firka. One new well has been sunk in Malli firka. Three drinking water wells were sunk and two-bore wells repaired in Veerapandy firka and in Trivellore firka 14 wells have been sunk. One well has been constructed in Polavaram and 16 wells in Gara firka. Four bore-wells are being repaired in Kadambuliyur firka. Two wells each have been repaired in Kalasapakkam and Nagari firkas and one well has been dug in the latter firka. Two wells have been constructed at Dendulur

by the efforts of the Firka Development Staff. Two wells, three wells, eleven wells, two wells, five wells and three wells have been repaired in Gara, Sermadevi, Guruvareddipalem, Hindupur and Rajahmundry firkas respectively. In Rajahmundry firka, two tanks have also been repaired from public contribution.

Communications.—The Firka Development Staff have induced the villagers to form minor roads. Details of the length of roads repaired and newly constructed are given below firkawar :—

Name of the firka or centre.	*Newly constructed roads.*	*Repaired roads.*
Avanashi.	..	11 miles.
Alur ..	6 furlongs.	..
Puliankurichi.	3 miles (mud roads).	..
Veerapandy.	8 miles ..	..
Saliamangalam.	2 miles ..	..
Kalasapakkam.	..	1,320 yards.
Nagari ..	5-5/8 miles.	..
Kundah ..	..	4 miles.
Palladam.	4 roads laid.	..
Guruvareddipalem.	..	3 miles.
Hindupur.	Small roads, lanes and by-lanes laid out in 8 villagers 100 yards.	..
Kurnool ..	100 yards.	..
Vellakoil ..	3 furlongs.	..
Dendulur.	New road 2½ miles (from Jegannapalem to Dendulur Railway Station).	..

A sum of Rs. 24,000 has been collected by the Firka Development Staff of Kadambuliyur towards meeting a third of the cost of laying out a new road in the firka. A temporary bridge each has been constructed in Payyanur centre and Rajahmundry firka.

Improvement of livestock.—Stud bulls and buffaloes are being maintained in Avanashi, Proddatur, Tirumangalam, Alur, Veerapandy, Errangondapalem and Sermadevi firkas. The Firka Development Staff on Kadambuliyur were able to obtain a consent agreement from a ryot offering rent-free buildings for locating a veterinary hospital in the firka and the same has been forwarded to District Veterinary Officer. Castration of cattle has been done in Payyanur and Veerapandy firkas and that of rams in Kundah firka. Steps have been taken to form a sheep-breeding society in Kundah firka. In Sermadevi firka steps have been taken to open a poultry yard in a central place. Propaganda for getting all animals inoculated against animal diseases has also been carried on in certain firkas.

Prohibition.—All Firka Development staff are carrying on an intensive temperance propaganda in their respective jurisdictions. Several offences committed under the prohibition scheme have been brought to the notice of the concerned authorities. Arrangements for the manufacture of gur out of sweet toddy by the ex-tappers were made by the Firka Development Officer, Dendulur, and about 100 candies of gur were manufactured during the previous season.

Tree-planting.—A number of avenue as well as fruit-bearing trees have been planted in the firkas and centres by the Firka Development staff.

Electricity.—The electrification of the main villages of the firkas and centres lying between the vicinity of power lines is being undertaken. Schemes costing about Rs. 10 lakhs have been sanctioned so far. Further proposals for extension of electricity scheme are under consideration. Only such of those schemes as are remunerative have been undertaken so far. As regards the unremunerative electrification schemes, the Government have since decided to subsidize the deficits arising out of such schemes from the fund for Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift. Unremunerative schemes which have so far has been investigated will also be undertaken in future.

Khadi work.—Introduction of khadi looms, spinning wheels, formation of khadi production and sales societies and conducting of training classes are the main features of work done under this item. The Firka Development Officer, Dendulur, purchased Rs. 10,000 worth of cotton in East Godavari district and stocked it with co-operative stores in five different centres to be supplied to the ryots. The number of active charkas in the firka was increased from 300 to 1,000 and steps are being taken to get the yarn woven into cloth through [illegible] Assistant Textile Commissioners. About 500 lb. of cotton seeds were own in the fields to grow cotton.

In the month of May 1947, under the directions of the Hon'ble Minister for Education, summer classes for giving training in spinning to trained teachers for a month, were organized by the Assistant Development Commissioners in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction. The Firka Cottage Industries Officers, the Firka Development Officers, the Teachers' Associations and the Deputy Inspectors of Schools organized these classes throughout the Province. In Northern districts, 21 training centres in 13 firkas were organized by the Development staff and about 868 trained teachers were given training in spinning for a period of one month. The teachers' organizations and the Deputy Inspectors of Schools in all the 24 districts including the City of Madras have organized a number of training schools, in spinning under the instructions of the Director of Public Instruction and the Assistant Development Commissioners and gave training to 3,874 teachers.

Road Development

" More and better roads are essential to build up a prosperous India. Nearly ninety per cent of the country's teeming millions live in villages, most of which are badly served in respect of roads. There is much talk about raising the standard of life of the people and adequate road construction is one of the surest methods of doing so. The peasant is an important unit in the economic life of the country and a network of roads would facilitate the flow of his produce from the village to the town.

" These points were emphasized by Mr. Nurmahomed Chinoy in his speech to the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association in Bombay recently. He had good reason to express the view that investment in roads would be beneficial both to Government and the people. Roads have found a place in the numerous reconstruction schemes in this country.

" It is often said that civilization travels along the road. Mr. Chinoy pointed out, good roads will serve as a form of education for the villagers, convey to them new and useful ideas and give them [illegible]

General Knowledge Section

A Code of Maxims for Public Servants

In his "Impressions of an Indian Civil Servant," Mr. R. D. Macleod, I.C.S. (retired), has suggested a code of maxims for public servants. In a Free India public servants are the servants of the people. This was stressed by Hon'ble Sardar Patel sometime ago when he addressed a gathering of the Indian Administrative Service probationers. Similar sentiments were given expression to by His Excellency C. Rajagopalachari during his visit to Madras sometime back. He said that the burden of patriotism under the new dispensation of things had shifted to the shoulders of public servants. In this connexion the code of maxims suggested by Mr. Macleod seems not out of place. The code is reproduced below :—

1. *Be courteous and tactful.*—Remember that in India it does not matter so much what you do as how you do it, and that nowhere are the people more sensitive to a slight or more appreciative of a kind work or a friendly gesture. The contentedness of a district depends more on the behaviour of its officers than all the logical reasons in the world.

2. *Praise as well as blame.*—Censure your subordinate when he does badly by all means, but do not forget to praise him when he does well. Censure may check his faults but praise will stimulate his virtues.

3. *Do not think that yours is the only way.*—When you arrive in your new district do not assume that your predecessor was an idiot because his methods were different from yours. Leave his arrangements alone for atleast three months. Do not thrust your views on your subordinates. They will do far better if allowed to develop their own. There are many ways of effecting the same thing, and yours is not the only way.

4. *Remember the human element.*—To be successful a scheme must be not only good in itself but within all comprehension and power of those who have to work it. An elaborate machine cannot be run by an unskilled mechanic. So when you make your plans, remember the kind of men who will have to carry them out. Do not credit the Rs. 5 man with a Rs. 1,000 brain.

5. *Get things done.*—Do not imagine that your orders will carry themselves out. When you have given the order you have only just begun. Call for a compliance report if necessary. If that is not enough, give the slacker no peace till he realizes that compliance with the original order will mean less trouble. Avoid too many general orders. Your subordinates will not remember them, and you will not have the time to enforce them.

6. *Do not do other people's work.*—Do not pat yourself on the back for doing everybody else's work because you can do it so much better yourself. You will find you have no time left for your own. Your job is to make your subordinates work and not do their work for them. Why should you get a superior officer's pay for doing a subordinate's work ?

7. *Keep the rules as a rule.*—Though great men are not the slaves of rules the mere breaking of rules does not constitute greatness. The greatness consists in knowing when to break them. To break a rule unnecessarily is to cause trouble for yourself and others.

8. *Have a sense of humour.*—This above all things. Nowhere do you need the saving grace so much. If superior authority directs you to do what you consider moonshine, if your plans have the contrast effect to what you intended, if the worst motives are attributed to your finest deeds, laugh. If you do not, you will go mad.

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of November 1947 :—

Vizagapatam ..	293·7
Ellore	333·8
Bellary	312·0
Cuddalore	311·8
Trichinopoly ..	305·3
Madura	302·6
Coimbatore ..	307·48
Calicut	350·7

Preeepts of Life

1. Make a few promises.
2. Always speak the truth.
3. Never speak evil of anyone.
4. Keep good company or none.
5. Live up to your engagements.
6. Be just before you are generous.
7. Never play at any game of chance.
8. Drink no kind of intoxicating liquor.
9. Keep your secrets if you have any.
10. Good character is above all things else.
11. Never borrow if you possibly can help it.
12. Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.
13. Make no haste to be rich, if you would prosper.
14. When you speak to a person look him in the face.
15. Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.
16. Ever live within your income.
17. Save when you are young to spend when you are old.
18. Never run into debt unless you can see a way out again.
19. Avoid temptation through fear you may not withstand it.
20. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.
21. Small and steady gains have a competency with a tranquil mind.
22. Your character cannot be essentially injured except by your own acts.
23. If any one speak evil of you, let your life be such that none will believe him.
24. When you retire to bed, think what you have been doing during the whole day.
25. Never be idle ; if your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the cultivation of your mind.

Read over the above maxims carefully and thoughtfully at least once a week.

Prohibition *Obiter Dicta*

Though Prohibition is well underway in 16 out of the 25 districts in this Province, critics are still busy to establish that it is an unwanted and impractical proposition. It may therefore be useful in this connection to assemble within a short compass what eminent sages, authors and publicists have said about Prohibition. The following are a few of them.

"*To give the poor drinking water and to wean them from drink are, if there were nothing else, achievements of which any ministry might be proud.*"

—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SRINIVASA SASTRI."

"*If the Congress in Madras succeeds in making Prohibition effective in the real sense that is to say in weaning drunkards from their habit and making people sober they will have done a service not only to Madras and to India but to Humanity.*

—S. SATYAMURTHY (1938).

"*The sight of a man who is drunk is an abomination even unto the mother that bore him.*

"*Behold the men who drink the poison called toddy day after day; they are as men that are asleep, neither do they differ from dead men.*

—TIRUVALLUVAR.

"*Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness in eyes? they that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not though upon the wine when it is red; when it giveth his colour in the cup; when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.*

—SOLOMON.

"*Drink is the source of all evil and the ruin of half of the workmen in the country.*

—GEORGE WASHINGTON.

"*Let none drink; but if they desire let those men drunk who care not for the esteem of worthy men.*"

— *The Kural.*

"*Liquor traffic is a cancer to Society; it must be eradicated; all attempts to regulate the cancer will not only prove abortive but will aggravate the evil.*"

—DR. JAMES SMITH.

Manu considered the drinking of spirituous liquor to be a heinous sin and prescribed heavy penalties for it. He has laid down that for drinking the spirituous liquor called 'Sura' the sign of the tavern should be imposed with a red hot iron on the offender's head.

"*Excluded from all fellowship at meals, excluded from all sacrifices, excluded from instruction and from matrimonial alliances and from all religious duties let the offender wander on the earth.*"

Tit-Bits

Has Alcohol Medicinal Properties

One of the stock arguments of the critics of Prohibition is that alcohol has medicinal properties. It is surprising that this argument is continued to be advanced seriously even though the theory of alcohol possessing medicinal properties was exploded even as early as 1785. Dr. Benjamain Rush of Philadelphia was the first to call public attention to the dangers of alcohol in his medical pamphlet published in 1785. Later the American medical association made an authoritative statement to the effect that alcohol had neither medicinal properties nor nutritive value. During the twentieth century advanced medical researches have gone further in this direction and have shown conclusively that alcohol and other narcotics have not only have no medicinal value but are dangerous to health. The latest authoritative pronouncement has been made by the Bhore Committee constituted by the Government of India in 1943 for making an health survey of this country and formulating remedial measures. The Committee has mad five points which may be tabulated thus—

(1) The main action of alcohol is on the nerve system. It never stimulates.

(2) In very small doses it has a sedative effect. It produces a sense of obliviousness in the victim.

(3) As food it requires no digestion before it is absorbed into the blood. It has little value as a source of energy because of its harmful effects on the higher nerve system. Unlike other foods it cannot be stored on the body and drawn up as required.

(4) In medical treatment alcohol serves but a limited purpose. The medical view of alcohol has changed quite radically in recent times. "Today medical science is of one mind that alcohol is often harmful in the routine treatment of diseases."

(5) Longivity is also affected by the habitual use of alcohol. The mortality surveys conducted in America as well insurance records bear out this point.

* * *

Meaning of Freedom

Freedom is a much misused term. People interpret it from their own angles and sometimes in accordance with their own ends. It is often overlooked that there is a line of demarcation between freedom and

licence. Sometimes the common man confuses one with the other. Freedom implies rights, duties and limitations while licence does not.

Recently Mr. R. V. Ramakrishna Raju, President of the Madras Legislative Council, delivered a broadcast on 'What freedom is to me." He asked—

"What are the conditions and concomitants of freedom if freedom to any country must be lasting? This should be a subject for immediate study if India is to enjoy her hard won freedom. I strongly feel that the world has reached a stage when all its component parts should not look at themselves as isolated pockets but as one correlated whole. If I, as an individual act and do as I please without for a moment considering how my actions impinge upon my neighbour and if my neighbour does the same thing, it is but natural that perpetual friction is the result. What applies to the individuals applies equally to the nations only in a greater degree. What does Indian history tell us? Before Muhammadan invasion and after, it was one series of never-ending fights among different parts of this country and against foreign invaders. The inevitable inference from this is this. In short that the freedom that the world has always enjoyed and was proud of, was only freedom to kill and be killed. The question is, is there no remedy against this. After all is it only this kind of freedom that our country has earned after so much of struggle and sacrifice. If freedom is to be real, lasting and beneficial, there cannot be a shadow of doubt that the thoughts and outlook of the world as a whole must change and change radically. But now that the world has become such a very small place that you can go round it in a matter of days, no country can afford to live an isolated life. Unless, therefore, every country pays due regard to the needs, requirements and more than all to the sentiments of all the other countries, lasting peace is absolutely impossible. If freedom to India means that she should live in a perpetual state of armed resistance to aggression of various sorts that freedom is no real freedom. Therefore, freedom means nothing to me unless it be the freedom from fear."

* * *

Decontrol

The implications of the decontrol policy do not seem to have been properly appreciated in some quarters. Decontrol experiment has to be handled carefully and its success depends on co-operation of all sections of society. Government are prepared to reimpose controls now proposed to be relaxed if maintenance of supplies in any area is jeopardized by hoarding and profiteering. The necessity has to be emphasized in this connexion for India to effectively control its own food resources by intensification of internal procurement. It is not correct to say that decontrol experiment argues failure of controls.

* * *

Prohibition Conference

"Public servants are no longer the agents of any foreign power but they are the servants of the people" observed the Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition opening recently the Conference of the Special Development Officers of the 16 Prohibition Districts. The main purpose of the Conference was to take stock of the position regarding ameliorative activities in the Prohibition Districts. He said that the introduction of Prohibition was the first step in furtherence of the programme of rural amelioration. It was a mistaken impression, the Minister said, that the problem of amelioration was confined to ex-addicts and ex-tappers only. Amelioration was not confined to a particular section. The work was to cover the entire community. As regards the provision of employment for ex-tappers, there were two problems to be faced. The first was the question of providing work for these people and secondly, the development of the cottage industries which should occupy an important place in the future industrial plans of the country.

* * *

Standards for Medical Institutions

It was pointed out to the Standing Finance Committee that the proposal for the establishment of a Bureau of Standards for Medical Institutions to act as a centre for hospital standards formed part of the five-year development plan drawn up by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

The Bureau's functions would be to prepare standard schedules of hospital equipment and standard plans of rooms, departments and hospital units, to carry out research in building and running costs of hospitals and to maintain a reference library of hospital plans, photographs, books, periodicals, etc.

Mineralogical Research in Bangalore

Investigation of the mineral resources of India will be the aim of an organization that is being set up under the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. This Research Institute, which will begin to function in March 1948 under Dr. Sir C. V. Raman, will direct scientific investigation of India's mineral resources from three points, physical, chemical and geological.

The Government of Mysore having given the Institute 11 acres of land for its site and the Institute having obtained from private contributions a sum of Rs. 4,08,000, the Standing Finance Committee sanctioned a non-recurring grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for the scheme.

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Cotton Textile Research

Preparations are under way for the establishment of a Cotton Textile Research Institute at Ahmedabad, expenditure on which was approved by the Standing Finance Committee.

Improving materials used in the textile industry and its products will be a primary object of the Ahmedabad Institute. A special task will be to conduct research of a medical nature with particular attention to the welfare of workers employed in the industry.

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Sericulture

The Standing Finance Committee also approved a grant for the establishment of a Regional Sericultural Research Station at Kollegal, in Madras Presidency.

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Alipore Mint Project

Fresh plant and equipment is to be installed in the Government of India's new Mint at Alipore, construction of which, suspended during the war, has now been resumed. Sanction for this expenditure was obtained from the Standing Finance Committee.

The proposal to build a Rs. 140·54 lakh Mint at Alipore was approved by the Standing Committee last year. Intended to replace the Mint at Calcutta, it would also have absorbed the Mint at Lahore which had been set up on a temporary basis during the war due to the decision to suspend the Alipore project. Consequent on the partition of the country, however, the Lahore Mint has been allotted to Pakistan, resulting in the loss to India of much machinery which had been ear-marked for Alipore. Purchase of fresh plant and equipment has, therefore, become essential.

Other schemes approved included a grant to the Government of Orissa for its new Capital project, investment by Government in Air Transport Companies, Creation of the Indian Foreign Service and the Indian Administrative Service. Creation of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation and Ministry or without portfolio and appointment of Indian High Commissioners in Canada and Pakistan.

* * *

State and Industry

Adverting to the relationship of State visa vis Industries Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao, in a Broadcast recently observed "Whatever might have been the functions of the state in the past it cannot be denied that if the lessons learnt during the last World War are not to be ignored, no objection can be raised to State interference in regard to production. He also referred to the conditions of the Industrial Planning Committee set up by the Madras Government regarding the setting up of an Industrial Finance Corporation to finance industries.

* * *

Peasant to be the Proprietor of Agricultural Land

The East Bengal Government, it is learnt, is having under consideration a scheme aiming at peasant ownership of all agricultural land as opposed to State ownership. This scheme is expected to be incorporated in a fresh bill for the abolition of permanent settlement. It is felt that this will provide the necessary initiative to the tiller of the soil to put forth his best efforts. The former Bill aimed at mere abolition of the Zamindari system and substitution of the State as the superior of land which would have only meant a change of masters without creating any personal inferest for the ryot in the development to the land.

* * *

Demobilized Medical Personnel

Medical Resettlement Organizations at the centre, in the Provinces and in the States have up to the end of November 1947 placed 1,253 ex-service medical, nursing and ancillary personnel in employment and 467 in training, out of 5,533 and 1,338 applications for employment and training respectively.

These resettlement organizations consist of a Central Medical Employment Bureau in the office of the Director-General of Health Services, New Delhi, and Provincial or State Medical Employment Bureau in Provinces and States. The Bureaux are attached to the offices of Surgeons-General Inspectors-General of Civil Hospitals in various Provinces and to the offices of the administrative medical officers of the various States.

Medical, nursing and ancillary personnel who have done war service are given assistance in securing suitable employment, or in arranging appropriate training in medical, nursing and allied subjects. They have been granted several concessions in such matters as increased grades, counting of war service towards increments, reservation of vacancies, etc. Candidates undergoing training are entitled to financial concessions in the shape of free education including tuition and examination fees, books and equipment and maintenance allowance based on conditions prevailing in the district, province or area concerned.

These Bureaux also meet the requirements of factories or institutions, who may require the services of medical or public health officers, nursing personnel and technicians. They should contact the nearest medical employment bureaux.

* * *

Bigger and better Airports for India

India, across which the world's sky routes pass, will soon have bigger and better airports.

A sum of approximately Rs. 2 crores for the improvement of twelve aerodromes up to international standards was agreed to by the Standing Finance Committee when it met recently in New Delhi. The aerodromes are in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Allahabad, Gaya, Lucknow, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwar and Vizagapatam.

The runways and hangars of India's major airports when completed would meet the requirements of larger and heavier aircraft now in use by operating airlines. Aeronautical communication service will also be improved in accordance with the plans for the development of aviation.

The need for larger hangars and stronger runways arose with the increasing use of hevier aircraft by airlines. Some progress has already been made in the erection of steel hangars in Bombay and Delhi.

Government's plans now include the erection of such hangars in Calcutta and Madras also, strengthening of runways, construction of residential quarters, installation of obstruction lights and the purchase of radio communication equipment and vehicles from disposals.

The work will be speeded up by the Civil Aviation Wingh of the C.P.W.D. who will buy and use mechanized plant and equipment, such as bull dozers, pump sets, tractors and diesel engines for construction purposes. A portion of the pre-fabricated parts of hangars and roofing material will be availabale from the surplus assets of the Defence Ministry.

* * *

Refugee special Officer

The Education Ministry has appointed a Special Officer, Mrs. E. Rudra, to assist refugee students who may have difficulty in continuing their previous courses of study in the Indian Dominion.

The Special Officer will organize the planning or education for refugee students and will help them in getting admission in the various institutions in the country.

Applications in the prescribed form from refugee students, giving details of their previous study and the Colleges to which admission is now sought, should be sent to Mrs. E. Rudra, whose office is in Room No. 44, 'M' Block, near North Block, Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

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Mr. Nanavathi's Warning

Sir Manilal Nanavathi made a strong plea for building up a new system of Agriculture in the country and stepping up of food production to meet the needs of growing population, when he addressed the students of the Agricultural College on the occasion of the College celebrations.

He said, "we are now a free country. But we have yet to overcome many of our weaknesses. The continued neglect of Agriculture is one of them."

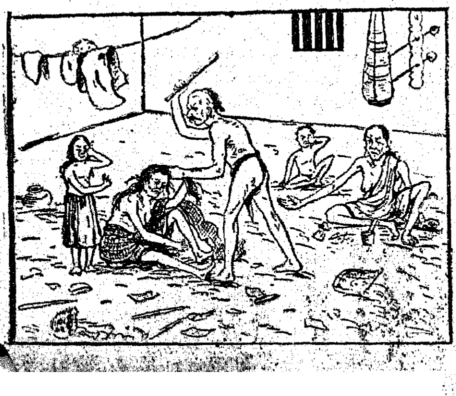
Referring to the "chronic" indebtedness of the peasantry in India, Sir Manilal said the only solution of this baffling problem lay in turning of our present deficit agricultural economy into a surplus one.

He appealed to the students to devote their attention to the study of rural problems.

News from Prohibition Areas

Reports received from prohibition areas show that ameliorative activities are receiving increasing attention. Every district has a vigorous counter-attraction programme, the chief features being indigenous games and entertainments. Games are specially helpful in that they are calculated to promote communal harmony and unity among the people and also to build up a strong, healthy and disciplined nation. The following is a brief summary of the reports :—

Coimbatore.—In Erode division steps have been taken to open reading rooms in eight places. Five sangams have collected an aggregate amount of Rs. 9,030 for this purpose. The Odathurai Sangam in Gobi division is constructing a school at a cost of Rs. 1,500. The Mallur Sangam has formed a new road one mile in length. It has also carried out repairs to a Harijan well. The Pungapalli Sangam has formed a new road. The Vadavalli Sangam has purchased the necessary instruments for bhajana to the value of Rs. 200 and it is conducting bhajanas regularly twice a week. Group tournaments were held in three or four places and these were witnessed by considerable people. There were competitions in chadugudu, tug-of-war, folk dances, bhajanas, sack race, etc. Prizes were distributed to the winners. The Collector addressed meetings in not less than 15 places in which he spoke stressing the duties of gramasangams and the aims and methods of rural uplift. The Kethanur Sangam in Pollachi division has constructed a new building for dispensary. More than Rs. 10,000 have been spent. Two other Sangams repaired roads of 1½ miles in length.



Chittoor.—One divisional tournament and three firka tournaments were conducted during the week ending 25th November 1947. Rural games like chadugudu, tug-of-war, sack race, folk dances, variety entertainments like sword and stick play, sugali dance, gubbi dance, kolattam and fancy dress, etc., were held. During these tournaments the winners were awarded

Bajanas are an important item of counter-attraction in dry areas.

prizes donated by the public. A rural exhibition of agricultural, educational, health, fisheries and handloom products was held in Chandragiri on an impressive scale. Film show and Harikatha Kalashepam were other interesting items of counter-attraction. The Weavers' Co-operative Society at Padipet had a public radio installed at the instance of the ameliorative staff. They also opened a drinking water well at a cost of Rs. 1,250, the expense in both the cases being met out of common funds of the society.

South Kanara.—During the third week of November, three more societies were registered for ex-tappers. Thrift day was celebrated at illia. The Sullia Co-operative Society, which is one of the oldest in the district, has introduced hundi boxes.

Kurnool.—Four new stalls in Kurnool division and one in Markapuram division were opened towards the end of November. Two inter-village tournaments were conducted during the period. Harikathas in three villages, Burakathas in two and bhajanas in four were organized in Kurnool division. Two dramas were also enacted. In Markapuram division, there were two bhajanas and two music performances. Thrift day was celebrated in two places. Two reading rooms were also opened.

The formation of a Weavers' Co-operative Society is being looked into. A credit as well as a co-operative store was organized in Kurnool taluk. Four ex-addicts have saved Rs. 300, 200, 250 and 280, respectively. One man was able to discharge his previous debt of Rs. 250.

Trichinopoly.—Two milk supply co-operative societies were organized, and also four jaggery co-operative societies. Thrift scheme was introduced in three villages and 43 boxes were distributed to ex-addicts. One more milk supply society and another jaggery makers' society were also organized. A conference of the Rural Uplift Association of the sub-taluk of Ariyalur took place on 29th November. About 4,000 people attended the conference. Kummi, kolattam, tug-of-war, musical chair, chadugudu, etc., were the more important games played by ex-addicts as well as others. Prizes were distributed to winners. The Collector spoke on the importance of tree planting, rural sanitation and public health.

Salem.—One gramasangam has finished the construction of a two-furlong road. A prohibition drama was enacted during the last week of November.

Tanjore.—A co-operative milk supply centre was opened at Michaelpatti. This is one of the several centres organized for giving work to ex-tappers in Tanjore division. Kummi, kolattam, songs and other variety entertainments were gone through. There were also speeches on the benefit of co-operative milk supply unions. A village betterment committee has been formed in one village in Mayavaram taluk and rural recreation clubs were organized in five villages in Shiyali taluk.

Madura.—The Kodaikanal Milk Supply Union has arranged to distribute free a cup of milk a day to municipal scavengers for a period of one month.

Books and Publications

[In this column will be published from time to time notices on important books and periodicals the primary object being to stimulate interest in nation-building subjects.]

"Silk Industry, Annual 1947."—Editor—Mr. E. V. S. Maniam, M.A., D. ECON., Published by the Bureau of Economic Research, Post Box No. 45, Cawnpore—Price Rs. 3.

Though India takes the eighth place among the industrial nations of the world, it is an admitted fact that her industry has not developed in proportion to her size and population. Lesser countries have gone above her. This industrial backwardness is one of the contributory factors of India's economic backwardness. It is common ground that for any country to be prosperous there should be an equitable distribution of population under the main occupations. Otherwise the economy becomes lopsided. Countries depending on one or other of the chief occupations like industry and agriculture are likely to face disaster when that particular occupation due to circumstances beyond control falls on evil days. In such a contingency, there should be a 'standby' to mitigate the shock of the disaster. In India, more than 80 per cent of the population is living on agriculture. And agriculture itself, depending as it does on a number of uncertain factors, does not promise uniform remuneration. Hence it is that subsidiary occupations or other independent lines of activity are necessary to supplement the income from agriculture or provide occupation for people who do not take to agriculture. In some countries in the west broadly speaking, only one-third of the people depend on agriculture and agricultural pursuits, another one-third on industries and a third one-third on miscellaneous professions. In such countries economy is balanced and it is an insurance against calamities.

There is a wide recognition of this fact in postwar India and there are signs of an awakening to the importance of industrial development. In such a context, the Silk Industry Annual issued by the Bureau of Economic Research, Cawnpore, is particularly welcome as giving information and guidance in the matter of the development of an industry which holds vast potentialities.

The sericultural industry has been in existence in India from time immemorial. It has been one of the most important subsidiary occupations of the agriculturists contributing much to the stabilization of rural economy. India stands unique in the British Empire as the only country which produces raw silk. Till the early part of the 20th century, the Indian sericulture industry was in a flourishing condition and we were exporting raw silk to foreign countries in large quantities. According to the Tariff Board Report of 1939, prior to 1875 the silk industry in India was on the whole in a prosperous condition with an annual export of silk at times exceeding 20,00,000 lb. But of late, the tide has turned. We import now on an average 22,55,000 lb. of raw silk, silk yarn, noils, etc. This position has to be rectified by an accelerated development of the silk industry. The Annual deals in detail with all the aspects of this subject and discusses the various matters connected with the industry under illuminating heads.

Light is also thrown on the war-time developments of this industry in the various provinces and States as well as on the activities of the Industrial Panels set up by the Government of India. The author has dealt with the subject in all its aspects and the materials set forth in the book are sure to provide useful guidance.

"Tata Institute of Social Sciences—Report for the year 1946-47."

Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay needs no introduction to readers. It is one of the few 'laboratories' in India where social workers are shaped. The need for organized social service in this country is now greater than ever before. India is now master of her own destiny and the colossal task of uplifting the masses from squalour, poverty and ignorance cannot be tackled single-handed by the Government. Social service organizations have therefore to come in, in this context to assist the Government. Under foreign rule, these social organizations were handicapped by a number of factories. It is almost an axiomatic truth that no society or state can thrive successfully, unless at least a few of its members deny themselves the pleasures and comforts of life and sacrifice themselves for the weal of the others. Social service is no easy job and in these days of complicated social problems, needs special training. The Tata Institute of Social Sciences is providing such expert training and in the past it has sent out several bands of well. equipped young men to toil in the field of social welfare. It has several departments including a Bureau of Research and Publications, Child Guidance Clinic and Field Work Departments and is manned by experts who have won name and fame in their respective fields.

During the year under report, the Institute continued to do useful work in spite of political disturbances in Bombay such as communal riots. Twenty-four Research problems were tackled as field work projects during the year. These include surveys of factory labour, social and economic surveys of villages, agricultural and fishing communities, surveys of small handicrafts and Indian industries, industrial surveys of Government and public institutions and surveys of the development and growth of social services in important cities of India. Problems relating to women and children were also studied with reference to health, diet and physical welfare. The mental side of the social problem was not neglected. The strength of the institution during the year was 14 men and 12 women students. Of these, the largest number hailed from Bombay, next came the United Provinces with 4 candidates, Bengal, Hyderabad, Madras and Mysore coming with two candidates each and the rest with one candidate.

One thought that strikes a reader here as he goes through the report is whether there is not need for a similar institution for Madras Province. The field for social welfare is vast in this Province and there is room for hundreds of men with special equipment to clear the field of debris that has been lying there mostly unattended to till now.

DID YOU KNOW THAT— . .

About 180,000,000 is the total number of Indian workers employed in agriculture, industries, mining, transport services, banking, commercial services, fishing, navigation, etc.

About 100,000,000 or nearly 25 per cent of the population are employed in agriculture and a large number of them are unemployed for about two or four months in a year.

* * *

The number of industrial workers in India is estimated at 8,000,000.

There were nearly 4,800,000 workers in organized industries in 1945. Of these, regulated factories employed nearly 2,650,000, Mines 350,000, Railways 800,000 and Plantations about 1,000,000.

* * *

The number of workers in unregulated factories is estimated at 1,000,000. Of these, about 500,000 are engaged in bidi making, etc., 140,000 in mica splitting, 30,000 in shellac industry and about 2,000 in carpet-weaving.

There are nearly 6,000,000 (2,400,000 whole time and 3,600,000 part-time and ancillary) workers on handlooms which provide 25 per cent of the cloth produced for home consumption and they represent 86 per cent of the total textile workers. Over 1,000,000 workers were employed in textile factories in 1945.

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Port Labour employed is estimated at 75,000.

* * *

The number of seamen according to a recent estimate is 250,000.

* * *

Rickshaw pullers in India number about 50,000.

* * *

There were 818 registered Trade Unions in India in 1943-44 with a total membership of 780,967 members, as compared with 29 registered unions in 1927-28, with a membership of 100,619.

—Indian Information.

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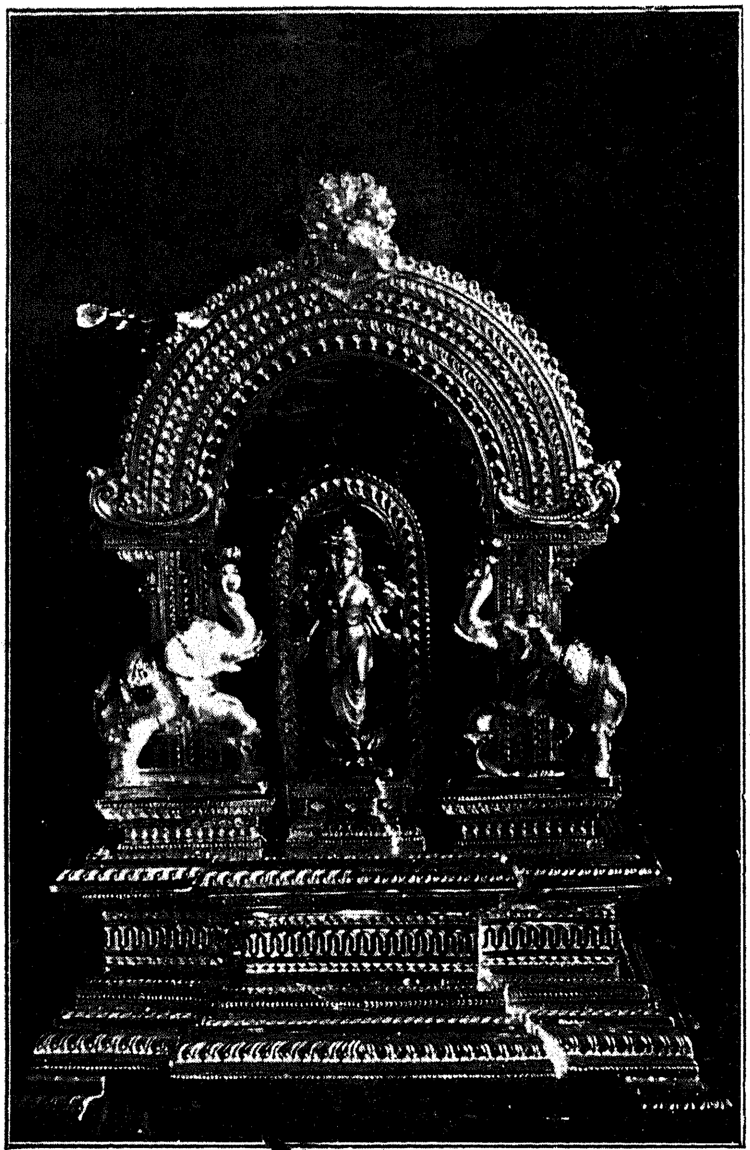

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